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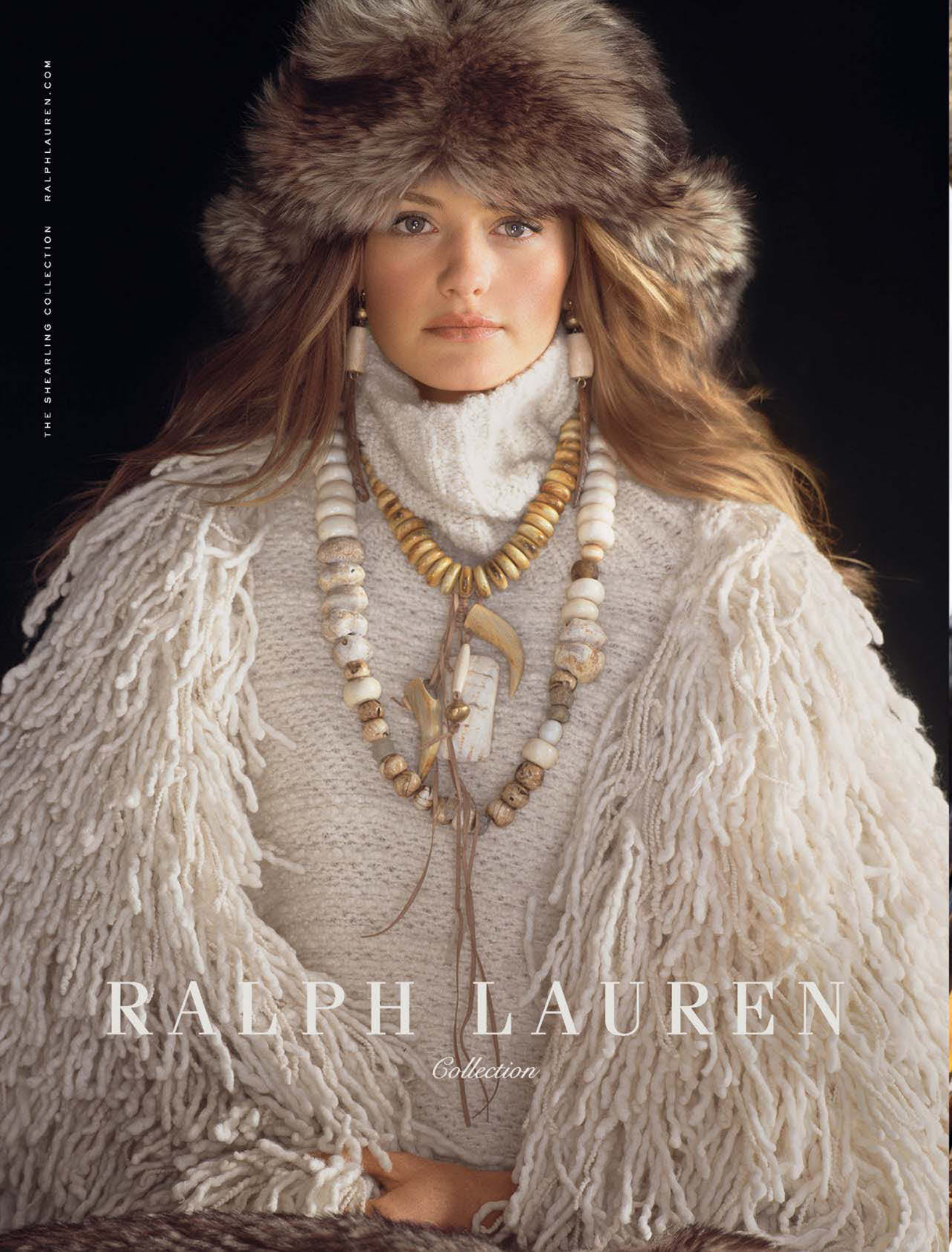
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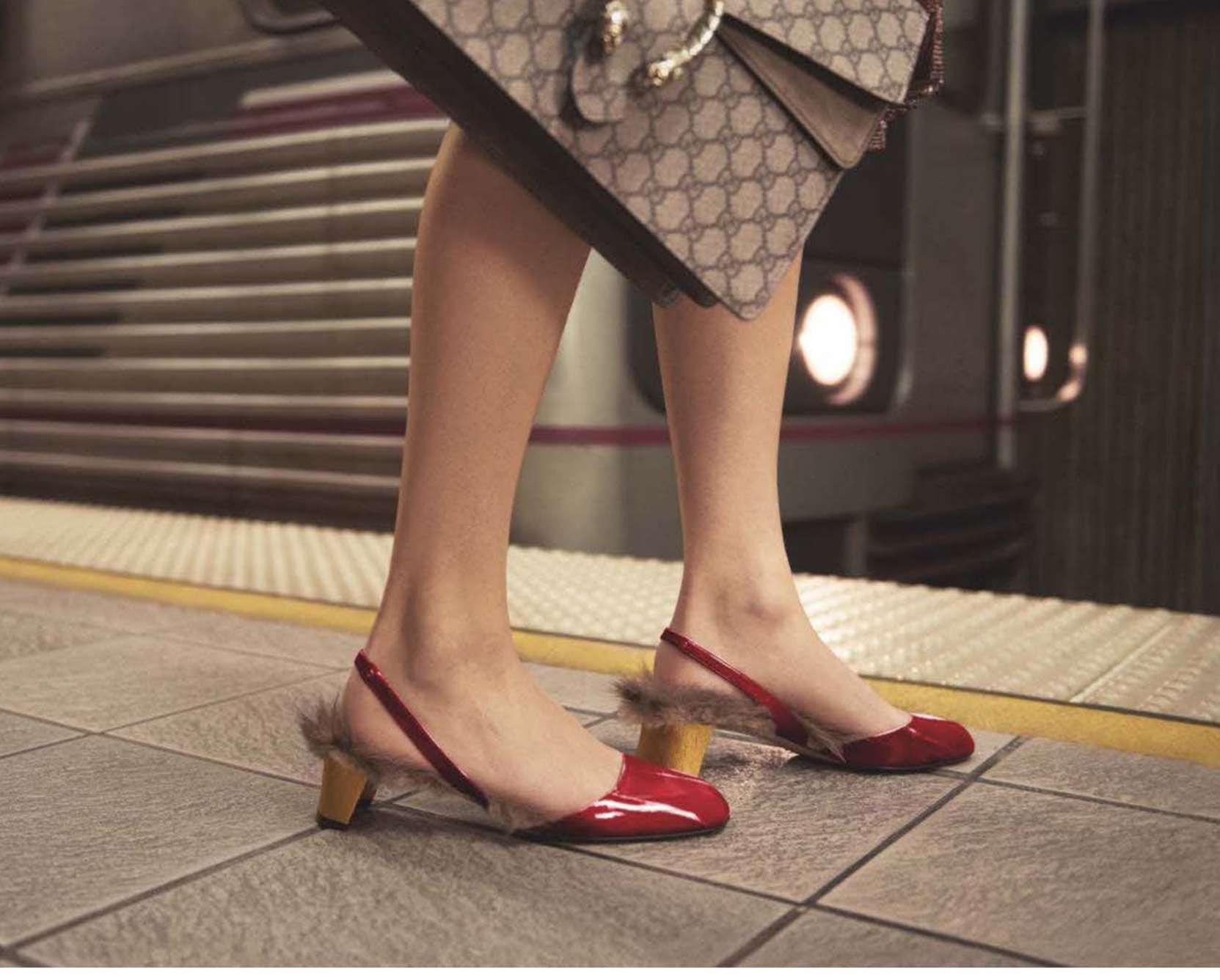

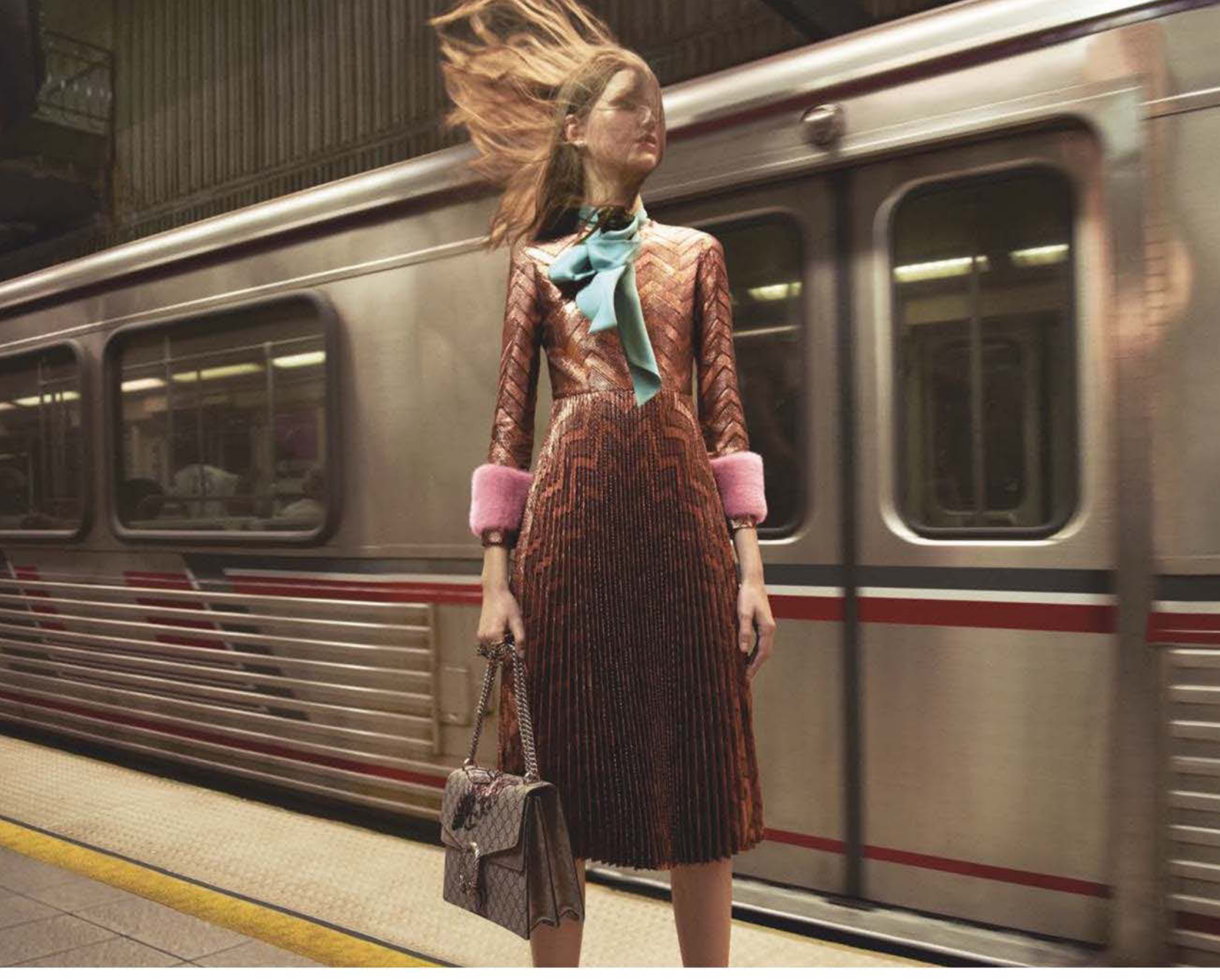

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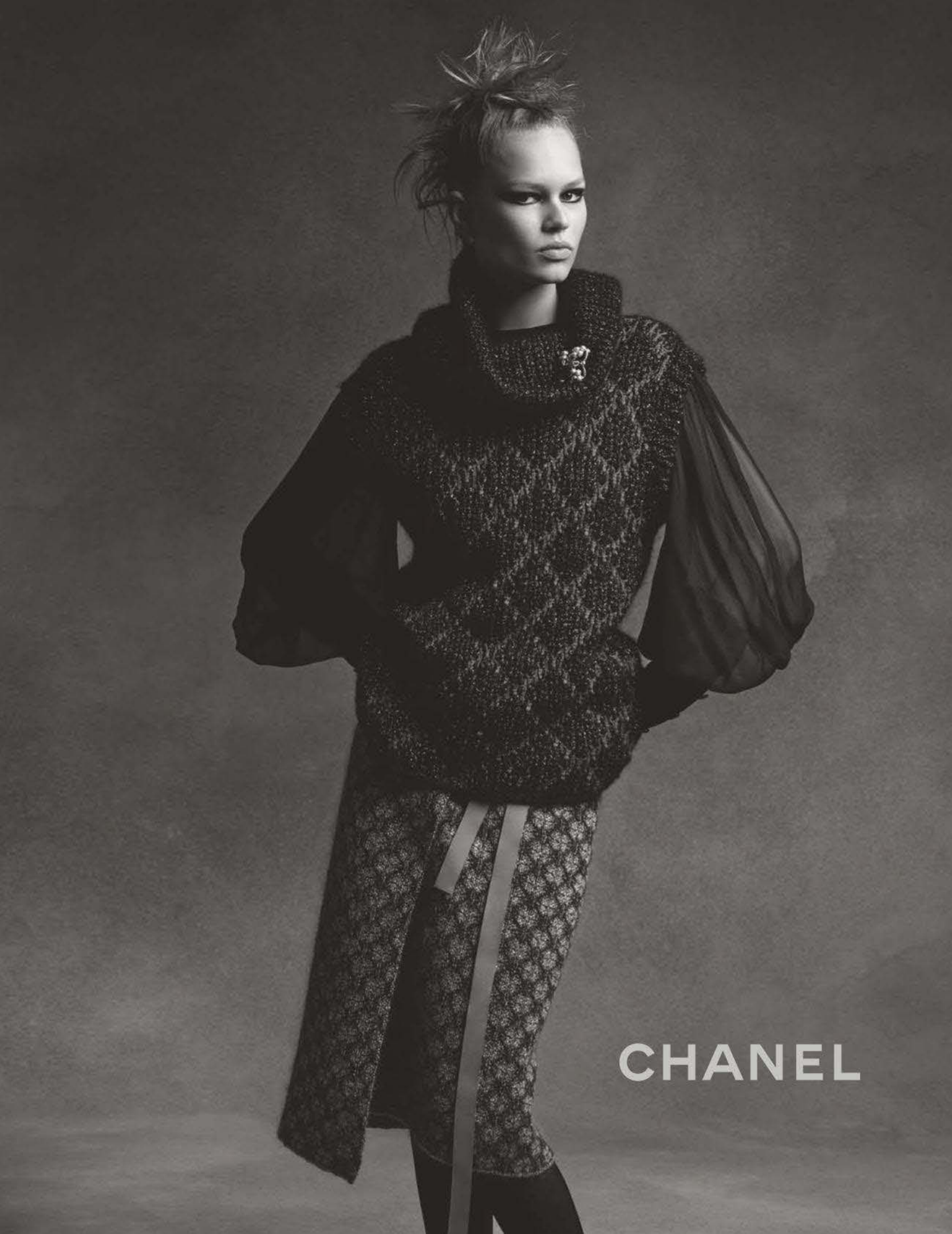
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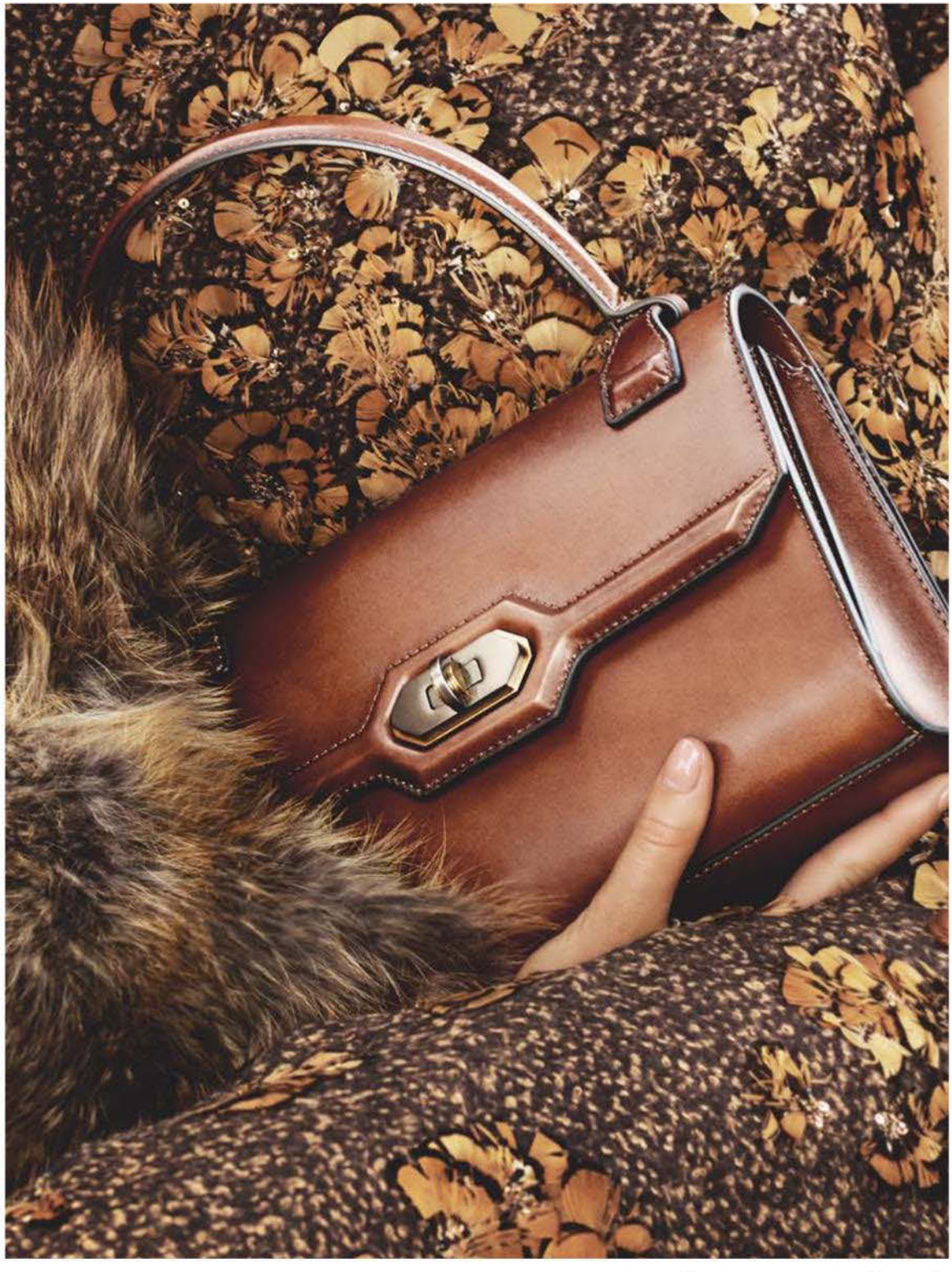

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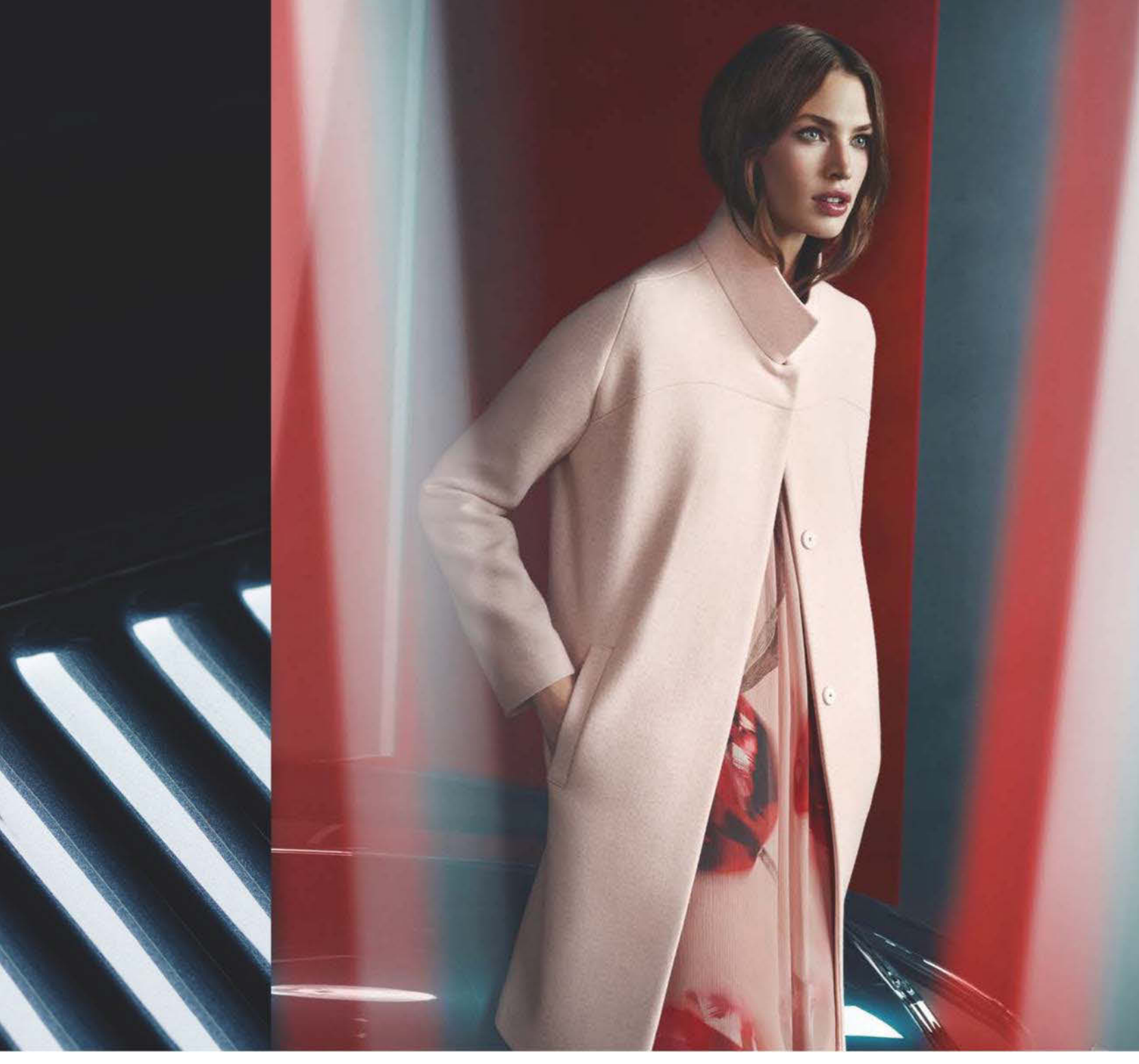

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'THE POSHEST BIRD OF ALL'

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COVER: FLORRIE ARNOLD

PHOTOGRAPHED BY MARC HOM
STYLED BY SOPHIE GOODWIN

Florrie Arnold wears silk-jacquard dress, POA, by Blumarine. Diamond necklace, POA, by Harry Winston. For stockists, see Address Book. Hair by Karin Bigler at Jed Root, using Shu Uemura Art of Hair: Wonder Worker and Texture Wave. Make-up by Karina Constantine at CLM Hair & Make-up, using Dior Fall Look Cosmopolite and Capture Totale Dreamskin: 5 Couleurs in 766 Exuberante, Diorblush Cheek stick in 845 Cosmopolite Pink, Rouge Dior in 542 Nouvelle Femme, Crayon Sourcils Poudre in 693 Dark Brown and Diorskin Nude Air Foundation in 020

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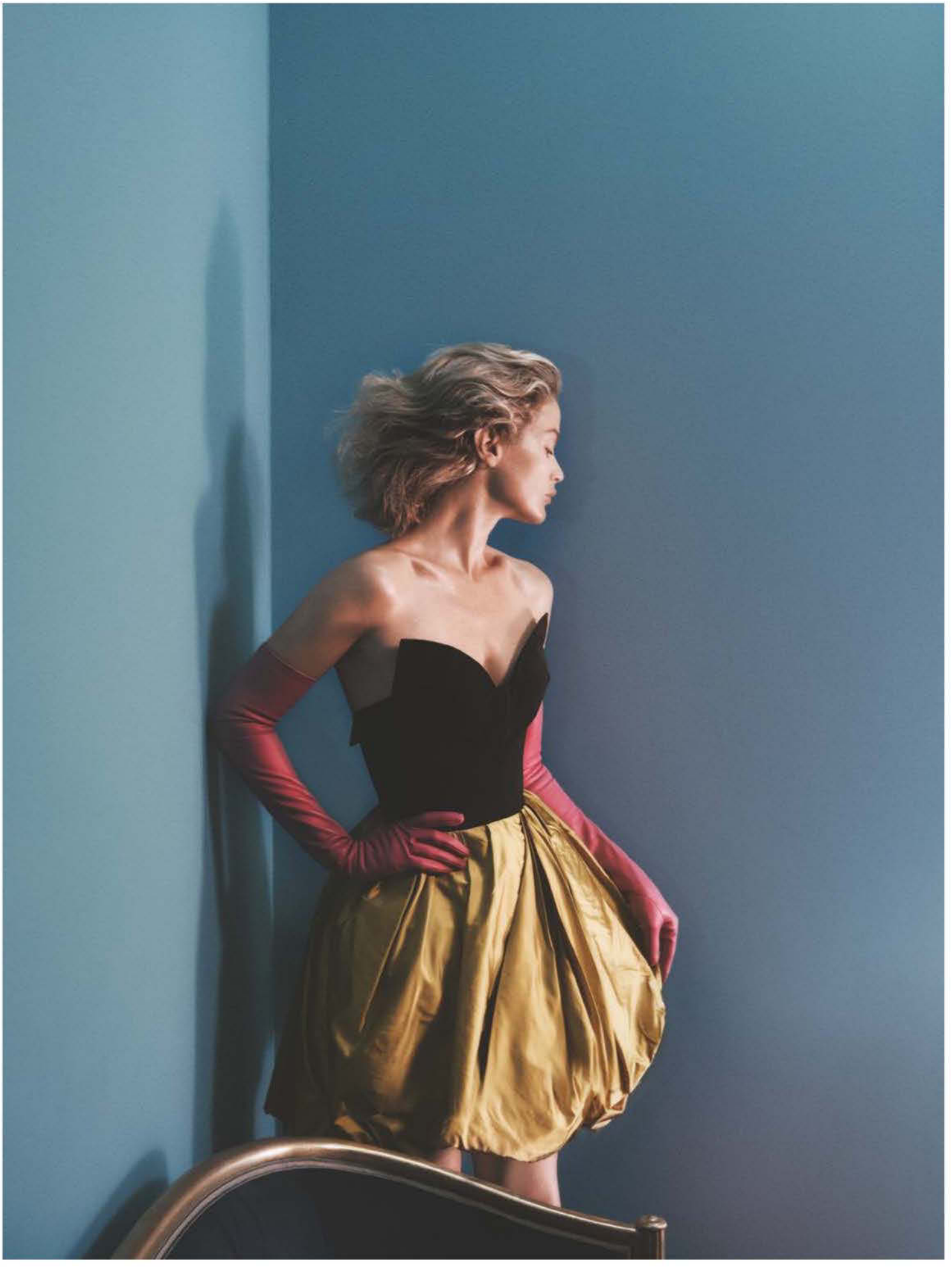

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PHOTOGRAPH: DAMON HEATH

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FLORRIE SHOW

What is our covergirl Florrie Arnold's party trick? Is she really THAT clumsy? Find out the answers to these and other questions in our exclusive online video at Tatler.com.

THIS MONTH IN TATLER WORLD

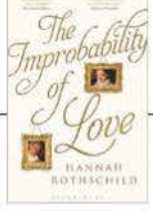
Online. Out and about. Everywhere, really

THE INSIDER'S GUIDE TO COWES WEEK

Only at Tatler.com: what to say, where to party and what NOT to wear (clue: heels).

Tatler Book Club

More smart fun from The Books That Built Me. Hear Hannah Rothschild on her debut novel *The Improbability of Love* and the books that have inspired her over a glass of Bollinger at Annabel's on 15 September, 6.30–8pm. Tickets are £26.99 and include a copy of Hannah's book, a six-month subscription to *Tatler* and some Prestat chocolate. *thebooksthatbuilthannah.eventbrite.co.uk*



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Plotting your next escape? Not a clue where to go? Fret not, for the brilliant Tatler Holiday Wizard will ask you a few key questions and – HEY PRESTO! – magic up your perfect trip. *wizard.tatler.com*.

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ROBERT CRAMPTON

Robert on the mysteries of the male libido (page 176)

What's your worst habit? Excessive swearing.

What's the best chat-up line you've ever heard? 'Fancy a shag?' is actually way more productive than most people might imagine.

Which super-power would you most like to have? Invisibility – for reasons I'm honestly not at all proud of.

HANA KNIZOVA

Hana photographs the queen of the Chipping Norton set (page 152)

Which super-power would you most like to have? To be able to control people's minds. That's evil, isn't it?

What's your signature dance move? Something between belly dancing and stomping.

What's your worst habit? Bad time-management.

What's the best chat-up line you've ever heard? 'You look like the girl who always dies first in horror movies.'

GERALD SCARFE

Gerald illustrates the formerly mustachioed Tory MP Keith Simpson (page 103)

Which super-power would you most like to have? Omnipotence – it might come in handy.

What never fails to make you laugh? Answering daft questions.

What's your go-to fancy-dress costume? I once went as David Hockney, with a blonde wig.

What's your favourite joke? I forget.

CONTRIBUTORS

What's on their minds this month?

EMMA BEAUMONT

***Tatler*'s acting online assistant films this month's covergirl for Tatler.com**

What's your favourite joke? I used to work in a shoe-recycling factory – it was sole-destroying.

What's your signature dance move? Courtney Love-style headbanging.

Which super-power would you most like to have? Resisting temptation. It would have saved me from bad boys and bad cake.

DAVID ABRAHAMS

David snaps a few nice knockers for our jewellery story (page 81)

What's your earliest memory? Jumping up and down on the sofa while singing along to Prince's 'The Most Beautiful Girl in the World'.

What would be your death-row meal? My mum's roast lamb with homemade Yorkshire gravy.

The word you overuse most? Antidisestablishmentarianism – it comes up all the time.

CHARLIE BYRNE

***Tatler*'s acting jewellery and watches editor picks our top trends (pages 70–76)**

What's your go-to fancy-dress costume? Anything that allows for wings, a wand and a whopping great ballgown.

Which super-power would you most like to have? To be able to turn Maltesers into jewels.

What's your worst habit? Leaving a trail of half-drunk cups of Earl Grey behind me.

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ARE YOU AS BOHEMIAN AS YOU THINK YOU ARE?

What was your first erotic experience?
a With a person of the same sex at school. Except it wasn't really about sex. It was about a meeting of minds and an inbuilt understanding of gender fluidity.
b With the family gardener. Under a willow tree. Intense *Lady Chatterley* vibes.
c With a train-tracked Etonian. But his name was Tarka.

Do any of your relations have any of the following names?
a River/Shanti/Bodhi/Chakra.
b Merlin/Florian/Sienna/Delilah.
c Oscar/Wilf/Rose/Nell.

What time do your children go to bed?
a Clocks are so restrictive. We make our own time in this house.
b When they're tired.
c Our nanny is wonderful, what a godsend (ie, no idea, that's totally her remit).

What's your job?
a I make spiral mazes out of living materials, like grass and snails, but I wouldn't call that a job.
b I have a second-hand bookshop in Chelsea. Second-hand as in vintage. And I create art. A lot of sculpture.
c I am a QC, but I do loads of yoga.

At your own birthday party, do you:
a Not turn up.
b Turn up high.
c Turn up early, with three minicabs booked for midnight, 1 and 2am. Just so you can go with the flow.

Where were you brought up?
a In Marrakesh, where I learned how to charm snakes and steal from tourists.
b The Bahamas, where my father lived with his third wife and her five children, and Ibiza, where my mother lived with her 22-year-old boyfriend, Pablo, who didn't speak any English.
c Lincolnshire and Scotland, where I ran feral on my grandparents' estate, learning how to kill rabbits.

What do you wear to parent-teacher evening?
a A hooded cape. Or a turban – one that I bind myself, as taught to me by my ayah.
b A gilet, peasant skirt and coiny belt – as long as people can see the dolphin tattoo on my left shoulder. The one I got in the Solomon Islands when I was stoned.
c Work clothes. With a really fun necklace. Something a bit mad.

You are offered a villa in Ibiza for a month over the summer. Do you:
a Refuse when you find out it has running water and electricity. You prefer a large tent on the beach, complete with Persian rugs and a hand-wound record player.
b Look confused. You always summer in Ibiza. You're part of the Ibiza crowd. Everyone knows you. It's your thing (what's happening here??).
c *Mis clases de español van a ser muy útiles.*

Clare Bennett

ANSWERS Mostly A: Yes, you win, but my goodness it must be exhausting being you. **Mostly B:** You're not bohemian, you're just the same as everyone else. But that's not so bad. Fancy a trip to Wilde Ones on the King's Road? **Mostly C:** You are about as bohemian as Peter Jones. Never mind.

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Chopard

Photographed by ANDREW WOFFINDEN

ALEX EAGLE WEARS SILK BLOUSE, £670, BY ROSETTA GETTY. SILK & WOOL TROUSERS, POA, BY CELINE. LEATHER SHOES, £440, BY DIOR. AT DOVER STREET MARKET. GOLD BRACELET, POA, BY CARTIER/ALDO CIPULLO. GOLD & DIAMOND RINGS, ALL POA, BY ALEX EAGLE FOR STOCKISTS, SEE ADDRESS BOOK. HAIR BY GEORGE NORTHWOOD. MAKE-UP BY TANIA GAUTAMA. STYLED BY SOPHIE GOODWIN

HERE'S LOOKING AT...
ALEX EAGLE

If you've been following Alex Eagle on Instagram, you've probably found yourself floored with FOMO as she zips from Vietnam to Mustique while you commit carbocide on the sofa. The girl seems to be on one long holiday – but all in the name of research. A former fashion PR and creative director of Berlin's The Store (a Vinyl Factory and Soho House collaboration), Alex is busy assembling 'an edit of things found around the world' for her eponymous Walton Street shop, 'a curated home', as she calls it. In the three-storey Chelsea townhouse you'll find Cecil Beaton prints on the wall, Nina Simone on the record player, clothes, furniture, books, linen – a whole freaking lifestyle for sale. And Alex herself, making lattes and seducing everyone with her husky voice. The former More House girl used to dress her younger brother Harry in girls' clothes in the family's Chiswick home (her father Robert is a documentary-maker turned fine-art specialist); now the 32-year-old has also created a fashion line inspired by Amelia Earhart. When not flying around the world, Alex can be found in the Soho loft she shares with her boyfriend, Vinyl Factory founder Mark Wadhwa, drinking wheatgrass-and-vodka cocktails. ***Tibbs Jenkins***

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ALEXA CHUNG IN ALEXA CHUNG FOR AG

LEANDRA MEDINE IN STELLA McCARTNEY

SARA FOSTER IN FRAME DENIM

CHIARA FERRAGNI IN PHILOSOPHY DI LORENZO SERAFINI

LILY ALDRIDGE IN STELLA McCARTNEY

DON'T YOU WISH YOU'D WORN THAT? DUNGAREES

Every woman harbours a secret desire to wear a pair of dungarees. It's a bit like wearing your boyfriend's shirt – sometimes better in theory than in practice. We picture ourselves, adorable and intensely attractive in our dungarees, doing a bit of light DIY with our lover. Perhaps with a darling little smudge of paint on the end of our nose. And then most of us, wisely, let that little fantasy go the way of all fantasies. Dungarees are the Fifty Shades of Fashion.

But here's the thing: dungarees have stepped out of fetish and onto frontline. And they come in all shapes and sizes, and hues and arrangements, so it's just got a whole lot easier to wear them without looking like a dick. Or fat.

What they're not is baggy, cutesy or coy. These are – never thought I'd type the following, so I'm going to shout it – POWER DUNGAREES. These are not dungarees to bucolically gather the roses in. These are dungarees that mean business. Wear them with anything – but not a jacket, as that looks a bit three-piece silly. Best bet is a flat shoe and a pretty blouse. That fems things up a bit. But power away in a polo neck if you're game. There are flares and tapered. There are sailor-button details and florals. There is snakeskin and denim. It's the Day of the Dungaree. ***AR***

ROBERTA BENTELER IN FRAME DENIM

LINDA TOL IN JUST CAVALLI

LEILA YAVARI IN SONIA RYKIEL

PHOTOGRAPHS: REAX FEATURES, GETTY IMAGES

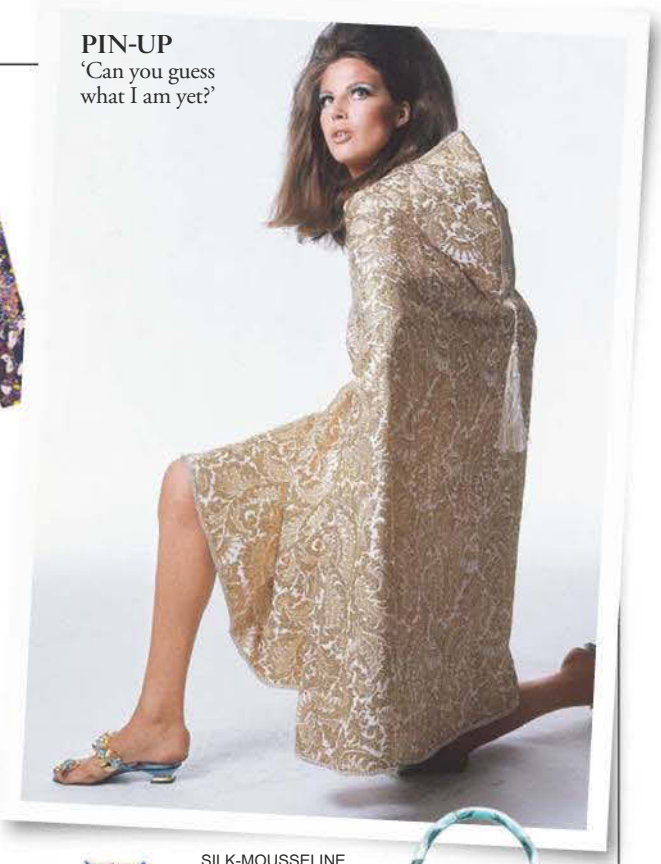
COTTON COAT, £1,275, BY **EMPORIO ARMANI**

TULLE, COTTON, WOOL-JACQUARD & PVC DRESS, £2,800, BY **MARY KATRANTZOU**

JACQUARD JACKET, £830; JACQUARD TROUSERS, £520, BOTH BY **CARVEN**

CRYSTAL & PLEXIGLAS EARRINGS, £225, BY **MIU MIU**

WOOL-JACQUARD DRESS, £1,995, BY **BURBERRY**



PIN-UP
'Can you guess what I am yet?'

SILK-MOUSSELINE BLOUSE, £1,466, BY **GIAMBATTISTA VALLI**

LEATHER BAG, £1,365, BY **PRADA**

GUCCI A/W 15/16

STELLA McCARTNEY A/W 15/16

SILK-JACQUARD TROUSERS, £873, BY **GIAMBATTISTA VALLI**

SHOES, £910, BY **MANOLO BLAHNIK**

TWEED DRESS, POA, BY **ERDEM**

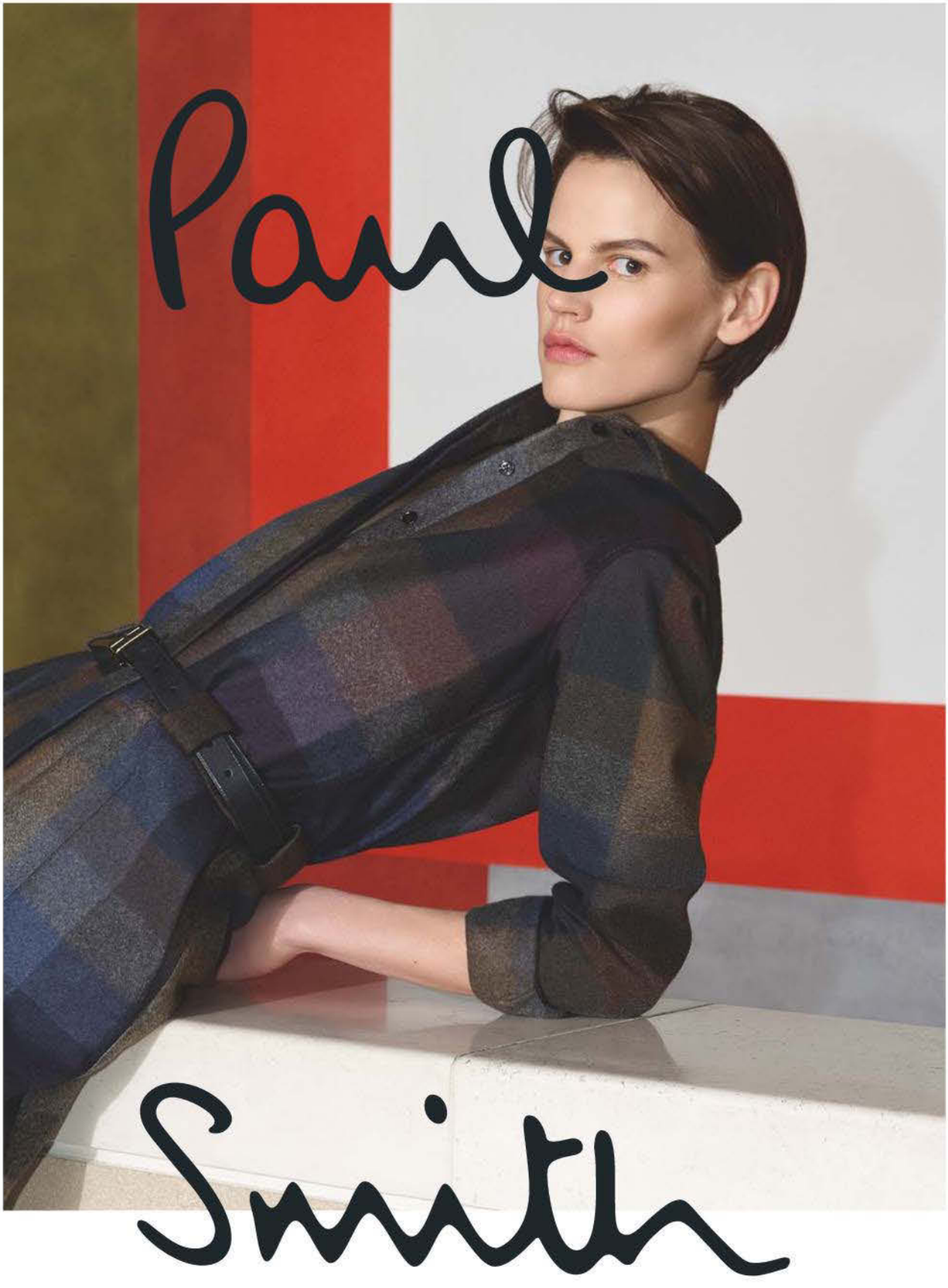
TOD'S A/W 15/16

MARNI A/W 15/16

Wallpaper

This kind of print hasn't been around for a while and it will take most folks some time to get their eye in. Because it is not shy and retiring, is it? It's not subtle or muted or low-key. It's the print equivalent of standing on a chair and shouting: 'I'M HERE! GUYS! I'M HERE! HAVE YOU SEEN ME YET? 'COS I'M HERE!' So even though it's modern in terms of visual decibels, it is rather retro in its flockiness. Its blowsiness. Its overblown, front-room, what-will-the-neighbours-think, chuck-those-car-keys-in-a-bowl, sheer bloody nuttiness. And yet genteel too. Weird. ***AR***

PHOTOGRAPH: BERT STERN/CONDE NAST ARCHIVE. STILL-LIFES: PSC



PAULSMITH.CO.UK

WOOL TROUSERS, £720, BY **EMILIA WICKSTEAD**

WOOL JACKET (ABOVE), £1,495; WOOL TROUSERS, £475, BOTH BY **ROLAND MOURET**

DRESS, £225, BY **JAEGER**

PATENT SHOES, £515, BY **MIU MIU**

PIN-UP
For pleats' sake

GIORGIO ARMANI A/W 15/16

LOUIS VUITTON A/W 15/16

COTTON BLOUSE, £325, BY **MICHAEL VAN DER HAM**

SUEDE GLOVES, £195, BY **MULBERRY**

WOOL & MOHAIR JACKET, £750, BY **MULBERRY**

COAT, £3,595, BY **BURBERRY PRORSUM**

WOOL DRESS, £670, BY **CH CAROLINA HERRERA**

DOLCE & GABBANA A/W 15/16

PRADA A/W 15/16

Cinderella blue

It's fairytale blue. It's the blue of daydreamy skies and babies' eyes. Of old-fashioned men's suit shirts. Of Fifties ballgowns and Thirties eiderdowns. It's a blue without chill, without edge, without bruising or melancholy. It's an optimistic blue. A prosperous blue. It's a blue that comes around only so often. It's the blue of clear days and full hearts. It's the kind of blue you marry. It's a blue that says the future's bright. Wear it head-to-toe. And see how things unfold. ***AR***

LEATHER BAG, £2,480, BY **LOUIS VUITTON**

PHOTOGRAPHS: CLAUDIA & STEFAN, TRUNK ARCHIVE. STILL-LIFES: PSC

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TWEED JACKET, £2,970, BY **CHANEL**

WOOL TROUSERS, £990, BY **RALPH LAUREN COLLECTION**

TWEED & LAMBSKIN BAG, £2,500, BY **DIOR**

PIN-UP
Tell me about it, stud...

TWEED SKIRT, £1,070, BY **CHANEL**

WOOL JACKET, £2,535, BY **PRADA**

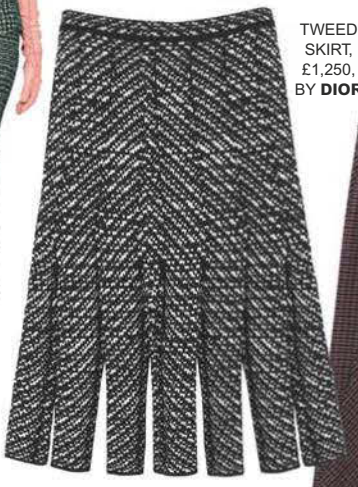
SALVATORE FERRAGAMO A/W 15/16

PRADA A/W 15/16

GABARDINE HAT, £295, BY **MIU MIU**

WOOL JACKET, £1,090; LEATHER BELT, £228, BOTH BY **MICHAEL KORS COLLECTION**

GOLD, DIAMOND & SILVER BROOCH, £2,750, BY **HUMPHREY BUTLER**



TWEED SKIRT, £1,250, BY **DIOR**

WOOL SKIRT, £680, BY **MICHAEL KORS COLLECTION**

WOOL SHOES, £305, BY **CH CAROLINA HERRERA**

CHANEL A/W 15/16

STELLA McCARTNEY A/W 15/16

Tweed

'Hmmm, bit tweedy,' we might have said. Until recently. And we weren't being kind. Not now, though. Now only tweed will do for trans-seasonal urban wear. Top to toe. Hats and jackets and frocks and skirts and shoes and trews. Oh my. Big news. Yes, there's a nod to Forties tailoring – belted jackets for a waspy waist – but there are also Sixties cropped trousers and peacoats and some really rather far-out slashed kilts and shredded tassel effects. There's shouty tweed and whispery tweed. Either way, get your head around it. It seems to be running the asylum. ***AR***

PHOTOGRAPHS: ARNAULT/CONDE NAST ARCHIVE. STILL-LIFES: PSC

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£25,740, BY **BOTTEGA VENETA**

£12,500, BY **ANYA HINDMARCH**

£16,600, BY **BULGARI**

PIN-UP
Croc madame

£1,495, BY **JIMMY CHOO**

£4,780, BY **MICHAEL KORS COLLECTION**

POA, BY **WILLIAM & SON**

£19,500, BY **RALPH LAUREN COLLECTION**

POA, BY **PRADA**

POA, BY **DOLCE & GABBANA**

£26,400, BY **LOUIS VUITTON**

Crocodile bags

Because I'm rich, I tell you. RICH. Evil laugh. ***AR***

£3,825, BY **CH CAROLINA HERRERA**

£27,000, BY **DIOR**

PHOTOGRAPH: LAURIE SIMMONS/ART + COMMERCE. STILL-LIFES: PSC

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Nicola Benedetti | special edition - toccata
raymond-weil.com

THE SHOES THAT THINK THEY'RE WIGS

Photographed by WILL SANDERS

SLIPPERS, £1,230, BY **GUCCI**. SILK-CADY DRESS, £2,042, BY **VERSACE**

FOR STOCKISTS, SEE ADDRESS BOOK. MAKE-UP & BODY SKINCARE BY EMMA WILLIAMS, USING JURLIQUE. PROPS AND LOCATION BY THEME TRADERS (THEMETRADERS.COM; ENQUIRIES@THEMETRADERS.COM). MODEL, MONI AT M+P MODELS. STYLED BY AILSA MILLER

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If you are considering private education for your child, the *Tatler Schools Guide Live!* event is an absolute must – a full day of lectures and discussions moderated by Mary Nightingale, ITN newsreader, presenter and mother of two. A distinguished panel of education specialists from top prep and public schools will discuss the fiercely debated subject of single-sex versus co-ed, the eternal question of whether to board or not, and the nitty-gritty of applying to prep and senior schools, particularly in London. We'll provide all the information and advice you need to choose the right school for your child.

Speakers include:

- **Mrs Vivienne Durham** – Headmistress of Francis Holland School, Regent's Park
- **Mr Andrew Halls** – Headmaster of King's College School, Wimbledon
- **Dr Niall Hamilton** – Senior admissions tutor at Marlborough College
- **Mrs Sally Hobbs** – former Headmistress of Orchard House School
- **Mr James Hooke** – Headmaster of Harrodian
- **Mrs Helen Lowe** – Headmistress of Bute House
- **Mrs Samantha Price** – Headmistress of Benenden
- **Sir Anthony Seldon** – Master of Wellington College
- **Dr Joseph Spence** – Master of Dulwich College
- **Mr Ben Thomas** – Headmaster of Thomas's, Battersea
- **Dr Anthony Wallersteiner** – Headmaster of Stowe School

Plus the opportunity to ask the *Tatler* Schools Team your individual questions throughout the day.

TO BOOK, VISIT

TATLERSCHOOLSGUIDELIVE.EVENTBRITE.CO.UK

* ITINERARY MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PHOTOGRAPH: GETTY IMAGES

10 DOWNING STREET

ON HAND, FROM LEFT, PLATINUM, GOLD & YELLOW-DIAMOND RING BY **DE BEERS**. PLATINUM & YELLOW-DIAMOND RING BY **CHATILA**. PLATINUM, DIAMOND & YELLOW-SAPPHIRE RING BY **CARTIER**. *ON WRIST*, GOLD, WHITE-GOLD, DIAMOND, YELLOW-DIAMOND & ONYX BRACELET BY **CHANEL FINE JEWELLERY**. ALL POA. LEATHER COAT, £5,000, BY **JOHN GALLIANO**

Well hello, Mr Prime Minister

Going somewhere special? Have we got jewels for you...

Photographed by DAVID ABRAHAMS *Styled by* CHARLIE BYRNE

SHOT ON LOCATION AT ADAM HOUSE, SERVICED OFFICES – MEETING ROOMS & FILM LOCATION, WC2 (ADAMHOUSE.CO.UK)

THE IVY

ON HAND, FROM LEFT, WHITE-GOLD & DIAMOND RING, £6,090, BY **CHOPARD**. DIAMOND & TANZANITE RING, POA, BY **G COLLINS & SONS**. *ON WRIST, FROM TOP*, DIAMOND & SAPPHIRE BRACELET BY **TIFFANY & CO**. WHITE-GOLD & DIAMOND CUFF BY **BOUCHERON**. BOTH POA. TWEED DRESS, £4,100, BY **CHANEL**

SHOT ON LOCATION AT THE IVY, WC2 (THE-IVY.CO.UK)

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5 HERTFORD STREET

ON HAND, FROM LEFT, PLATINUM, DIAMOND & EMERALD RING BY **FABERGE**. PLATINUM, DIAMOND & EMERALD RING BY **BOODLES**. *ON WRIST, FROM TOP*, DIAMOND & EMERALD BANGLE BY **GRAFF DIAMONDS**. DIAMOND & EMERALD BRACELET BY **DAVID MORRIS**. ALL POA. SILK-JACQUARD DRESS, £1,900, BY **ERDEM**

SHOT ON LOCATION AT LOULOU'S AT 5 HERTFORD STREET, W1 (5HERTFORDSTREET.CO.UK)

SOHO SANCTUARY

With 24 luxury apartments to choose from, One Denman Place offers elegant accommodation in the heart of London. Relax in a designer home-from-home that boasts boutique-hotel comfort

Residential heaven is practically guaranteed when you sign a lease on a fully serviced apartment at One Denman Place, an exquisite development that's part of *Tatler* favourite Ham Yard Hotel.

As you'd expect from Firmdale Hotels owner and design director Kit Kemp, One Denman Place has all the hallmarks of a five-star boutique hotel. Tucked away in Ham Yard, each of the 24 residences has been individually decked out in Kemp's award-winning modern British style – think muted colours in whimsical patterns. And every one – from the sleek studio to the expansive duplex penthouses that feature vast terraces overlooking the Soho skyline – is available to let for 90 days or more.

The self-contained apartments are reached via an exclusive entrance or from inside the hotel, so One Denman Place offers a sublime combination of a homely experience with all the amenities of a luxury hotel. We can't think of a more stylish and sophisticated way to live in one of the world's most vibrant locations. Ham Yard Village, which has 12 independent shops spread across a tree-filled courtyard, is on the doorstep. And did we mention it's in the heart of theatreland and close to Mayfair?

FINISHING TOUCHES

Naturally, you'll be well looked after: residents enjoy round-the-clock porterage, concierge and room service, while daily linen and housekeeping services ensure your home stays spotless. With access to all the hotel's facilities, you'll never be bored – there's the fabulous Ham Yard restaurant and bar (open all day), delightful spa and gym, state-of-the-art theatre, magical rooftop garden and even Fifties bowling alley The Croc. Strike!

One Denman Place is available to lease for periods of 90 days or more. For further information, visit onedenmanplace.com

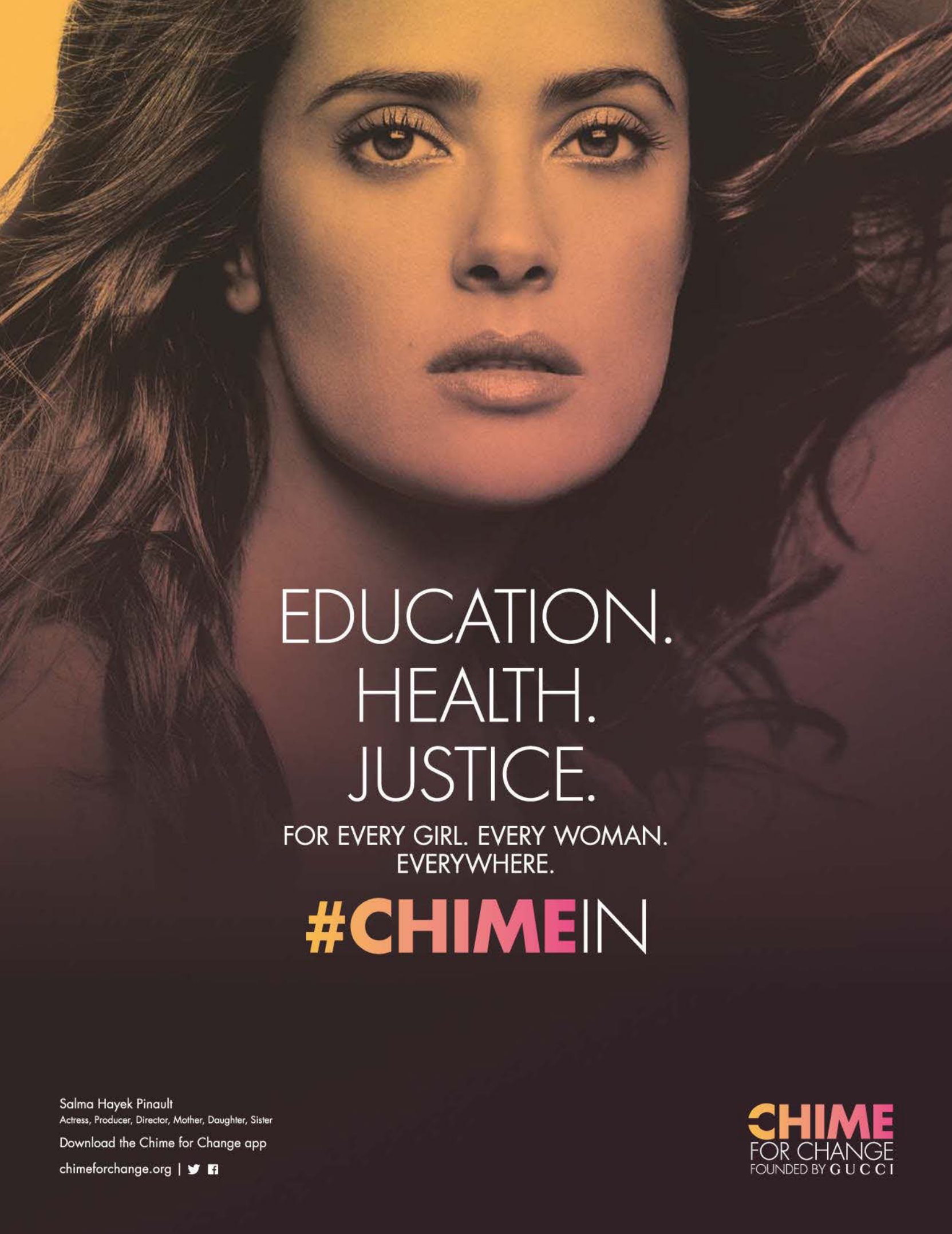
Interiors created by Kit Kemp, award-winning design director

CLARIDGE'S

FROM TOP, PINK-GOLD, DIAMOND, SPINEL & ONYX RING, POA, BY **BULGARI**. ROSE-GOLD, DIAMOND, PINK-TOURMALINE & MORGANITE BRACELET, £57,750, BY **ASPREY**. WHITE-GOLD, DIAMOND, PINK-SAPPHIRE & PINK-SPINEL BANGLE, POA, BY **MOUSSAIEFF**. JACKET, £795, BY **MATTHEW WILLIAMSON**

FOR STOCKISTS, SEE ADDRESS BOOK. NAILS BY MICHELLE CLASS AT JED ROOT, USING CHANEL A/W 2015 & BODY EXCELLENCE HAND CREAM. HAND MODEL, ELEANOR TAYLOR AT BODY LONDON

SHOT ON LOCATION AT CLARIDGE'S, W1 (CLARIDGES.CO.UK)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BE MY BABY

You may have boyfriend jeans, a boyfriend blazer and a boyfriend bag. You may even have an actual boyfriend. But is he as cute as this **Chanel** Boy.Friend watch, £16,500, in beige gold and diamonds? Let's be frank. NO ONE can compete with Chanel. *chanel.com*

GIVE IT SOME STICK

You never grew out of stickers? Get these personalised **Anya Hindmarch** ones, £45 each, with embossing from £20. Perfection! *anyahindmarch.com*

STAR QUALITY

If the sands of time were a pair of earrings, they would probably be made from rose gold, diamonds, carnelians and then more round-mounted pavé diamonds... and look like these. They can't actually tell the time, of course, and there's no sand involved, but these Diva earrings, £2,640, are by **Bulgari**, so none of that matters. *bulgari.com*

It List

by MARIELLA TANDY

Bring your dormice to the Hyatt Regency-Churchill on 30 July or 1 September and join us to celebrate 150 years of Alice in Wonderland with extravagant cakes, Sharky & George and – just for you – milliners Lomax & Skinner. Adults, £38; children, £19 (020 7299 2037).

SPY SOCIETY

Pssst. Don't tell anyone, but we think we've spotted a secret agent. You know what they're like – impeccably stylish and only travel with their essentials. This new **DVF** Secret Agent, £260, goes one better. It has room for essentials and MORE. Not even James Bond could manage that. *dvf.com*

PROPERLY HOOKED

You can rely on the Swedes for lots of things – like the classy knitwear brand **Dagmar**, which has been producing knockout pieces for a decade. Celebrate with this burgundy crochet dress, £450, from its special 10 Year Collection. Then eat some meatballs. *net-a-porter.com*

WAX LYRICAL

Jo Malone only know deliciousness. Their new Mimosa & Cardamom candle, £42, is a little bit citrusy, a little bit incensey. Total heaven. *jomalone.com*

STEPPIN' OUT

Look at these Lexington goatskin boots, £813, by **Hermès**. Sitting there all perfect and navy, with their brazen red straps. That heel isn't too high either, so they're obviously super-comfortable. What to do? How are you supposed to resist? You're not. Just get them. *hermes.com* ▷

THE SEARCH FOR YOUNGER LOOKING SKIN IS OVER.

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†Based on number of awards received by Olay Total Effects boutique across the globe 2002-2014

Olay
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LOCK STAR

It is simply unacceptable to go through life not having owned a **Gucci** bag. If you are guilty of this, rest assured that we are here to help. Let us steer you towards this interlocking polished leather shoulder bag, £1,030. Does it not scream savoir faire? Even though it's Italian? *gucci.com*

SNUG SMARTS

Some cardigans become more beloved than a firstborn child or a cellar full of really expensive booze. This **MaxMara** Manuela cardigan, £500, is one of those. Cosy AND sexy – the impossible made possible. *maxmara.com*

PURE ALLURE

If you're going to make the effort to get to the Maldives, the least the Maldives can do is make your stay completely spectacular. Fortunately, the **Constance Halaveli Maldives** agrees, hence its stunning villas, private beaches and outrageously delicious food. You ought to know now that you will refuse to leave. *susiefreemantravel.com*

HAPPY HOURS

Here's a nice thing you could do for yourself. Buy a Ladies Millenary Hand-Wound watch, £39,400, by **Audemars Piguet**. Stare at its pretty face all day and tell it how much you just LOVE it. *audemarspiguet.com*

The Tatler Schools Guide Live! event on 2 October will take the stress out of all things educational. You'll be talking to industry insiders who know all there is to know about the UK's top independent schools. Tickets, £220 each (tatler.com/schoolslive).

GET PERKY

Does your hair flag between washes? Does it hang around on your head like a moody teenager who refuses to get up until after midday? This Finishing Lotion, £36, by **Christophe Robin** will perk up the most sullen locks with its scalp-purifying and incredibly-shiny-finish ways. *harrods.com*

LASH FASH

Some mascara brushes are born with brains, especially those from the **Lancôme** family. Take this Hypnôse Volume-à-porter, £22.50, for example – it has a flexible head and a whopping 306 bristles, making for an even application that doesn't overload. So lavish your lashes and expect them to look full and gorgeous. *lancome.com*

HIGH NOTES

Inspired by the **Buccellati** archives, this gold bracelet, £2,900, is part of their Opera Collection. Don't ask it to sing, though. It's a bracelet. *buccellati.com*

IT'S A WRAP

Ay caramba! Snatch up the nearest tequila bottle and rush out to buy a cactus – for it is time to embrace the Mexican within and get your poncho groove on. Except this is *Tatler*, isn't it? So the poncho in question is naturally by **Burberry**, £1,995. *burberry.com*

SOAK IT UP

If your skin is giving you dehydrated-as-an-autumn-leaf vibes, you need **Erno Laszlo**'s Hydra-Therapy Refresh Infusion, £100. Its mild texture contains moisture binders that give your skin a top-notch refreshing drink. *ernolaszlo.com*

CLASS ACT

Cast your mind back to your school bag. To the CND badge you stole from your sister. To the awful Etonian who never called after the Feathers Ball. Imagine the clout you'd have had with this **YSL** quilted lambskin High School bag, £1,435. *ysl.com*

DREAM COME TRUE

Stop it. It's a **Dorothee Schumacher** trenchcoat, £1,212, made of actual pink actual suede. It's like a perfect dream but better – this coat is real. *dorotheeschumacher.com*

SOUK IT AND SEE

Marrakesh is tremendously hectic, so it's important to be able to retreat somewhere extremely tranquil when you've had your fill of souk and medina for the day. Hurray, then, that the **Mandarin Oriental** has now opened near the Marrakesh Royal Golf Club, replete with huge gardens filled with roses, bougainvillea, olive trees and prickly pears. It's minutes from the city centre and the 54 villas have their own gardens and swimming pools. What more is there to say? *mandarinoriental.com*

DEEPER & DEEPER

Look at your skin. Think about all the work it does for you. Slapping on whatever moisturiser is around simply won't cut it, because your skin needs more support than that. This new Anti-Ageing Rapid Response Booster, £195, by **La Prairie** contains a new peptide technology that targets several layers. It wants to get right under your skin and stay there. *harrods.com*

This, quite frankly, is a must-read. Samantha Thornton's POG: Weathering the Storm is all about her seven-year battle with lymphoma. It's honest, brave and bursting with optimism – and half of the proceeds are going to Maggie's Centres. Buy it immediately and prepare to laugh and cry. £10.50 at amazon.co.uk.

SAFETY FIRST

No more frying your hair while you straighten it. The **GHD** Platinum, £165, maintains a constant temperature and also reduces hair breakage. It's the way forward. *ghdhair.com*

GREY PRIDE

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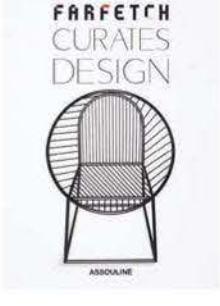

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About Town

Photographed by SAM PELLY

THE PHOTOGRAPHER

Meet Sam, the lesser-spotted Pelly. Sam is the brother of Guy – Prince William and Harry's mate – but he's radically different from his clubbable little brother. The dens of Chelsea are not for Sam. You are more likely to find this charming, bearded photographer dancing on the kitchen table in his Andalusian farmhouse with his three young daughters, Melo, 10, Lella, five, and Juno, four. Or camping under the stars in Mexico. Or photographing the slums in Guatemala.

Sam, 41, has never felt at ease among the Establishment. He grew up in Wiltshire and was sent to boarding school aged eight, first to Wellesley House and then to Stowe. 'I never responded very well at school, I was never academic. Everyone was slightly pigeonholed and I became angry with the whole system.' So, after Stowe, Sam went travelling, Interrailing through Europe first, then venturing further, to India and the Far East. And it was there that photography grabbed him. 'The camera was always a tool to get me into other worlds, to show that there wasn't just this privileged, English world. And then the camera changed from being this place for me to hide behind into my career.'

These days, Sam mostly mixes commercial work with private commissions – 'for celebrities-slash-oligarchs', he jokes. High-end portraiture, in other words. He recently shot Benedict Cumberbatch's wedding because the actor's wife, Sophie, is a friend.

If you want to commission Sam, you just need to tempt him over from Spain; he moved there last year with his wife, Susie, a craniosacral therapist in training, and their daughters to a house on a mountain from where they can see Africa on a clear day. 'We had this wonderful life in Wiltshire and we just said, "Really? We're going to settle into this? No," we thought, "how else can we do this?"' ***SM-C***

ALL CLOTHES, SAM'S OWN

Super Spenders

Poet Stephen Spender had a voracious flexi-sexual appetite and was friends with the 20th century's cleverest bohemians – now his son, Matthew Spender, has written a book about growing up with this fast-living set. Matthew Bell meets the sculptor in his Tuscan idyll

Photographed by LUCA CAMPRI

Clockwise, from top left, **sculptures by Matthew Spender; his parents, Natasha and Stephen, 1941; Matthew with his wife Maro, 1963; as a child with his father in Italy, 1951.** ***Opposite page,*** **Matthew at his studio, 2015**

This is an incredibly indiscreet book,' says Matthew Spender, sucking on his umpteenth cigarette of the morning. We are in the piazza in Asciano, a small town in Tuscany half an hour's drive from his home in San Sano. Matthew is usually described as a sculptor or a painter, or as the son of the poet Sir Stephen Spender. But he is also a talented writer and has just completed his third book, *A House in St John's Wood*. It is the first truly frank biography of his father, a passionate and politically minded poet and activist of the mid-20th century whose reputation was fiercely guarded by his wife, Lady Spender, until she died nearly five years ago. Matthew began writing it within days of her death and describes it as a 'nip-in-the-bud kind of book', covering all the scandalous stuff before anyone else can.

Because apart from being a poet and an intellectual, Stephen Spender was at the intersection of all the most fascinating social circles of the last century. He was a friend of WH Auden and Christopher Isherwood, and the three writers became so thick with each other in the Thirties that Evelyn Waugh griped they had 'ganged up and captured the decade for themselves'. He hung out with Allen Ginsberg, raised money for a 19-year-old Dylan Thomas and counted TS Eliot, WB Yeats, Raymond Chandler and Jean-Paul Sartre among his friends. He was also a promiscuous homosexual. Who cares, you might say, that he was romping around with men – but this was well before it was decriminalised and after his second marriage, to Natasha Litvin, a concert pianist of Lithuanian-Jewish descent. She preferred to keep up appearances, although the truth, as everyone else could see, was different. 'An Italian would never write a book like this,' says Matthew. 'Nobody here would ever start talking about their parents' sex life after their death. The English are happy to let everything rip, whereas when someone dies here, they are surrounded with a kind of halo.'

The curious thing about Matthew, 70, is that he doesn't seem bothered by his father's infidelities – he's more angry with his mother for being such a Hyacinth Bucket. He portrays her as a snob, a woman who, when her husband confessed to all his affairs early on, simply said, 'Now we can turn the page.' She wrote a memoir, but Matthew says it is unreadable, because it is simply a litany of names and any emotional issue is dealt with in just a few sentences. 'Mum enjoyed being Lady Spender and was good at it,' he says. She and Matthew's wife Maro never hit it off. Maro's idea of a conversation, says Matthew, is to lob a controversial statement into the air and wait for the fallout. Among other expats in Italy, she has a reputation for being forthright. He recalls asking her to switch off her instinct for contradiction when they went to visit his parents. 'I can't,' she said. 'Conversation is supposed to be a ping-pong. But with your parents it's all ping and no pong.'

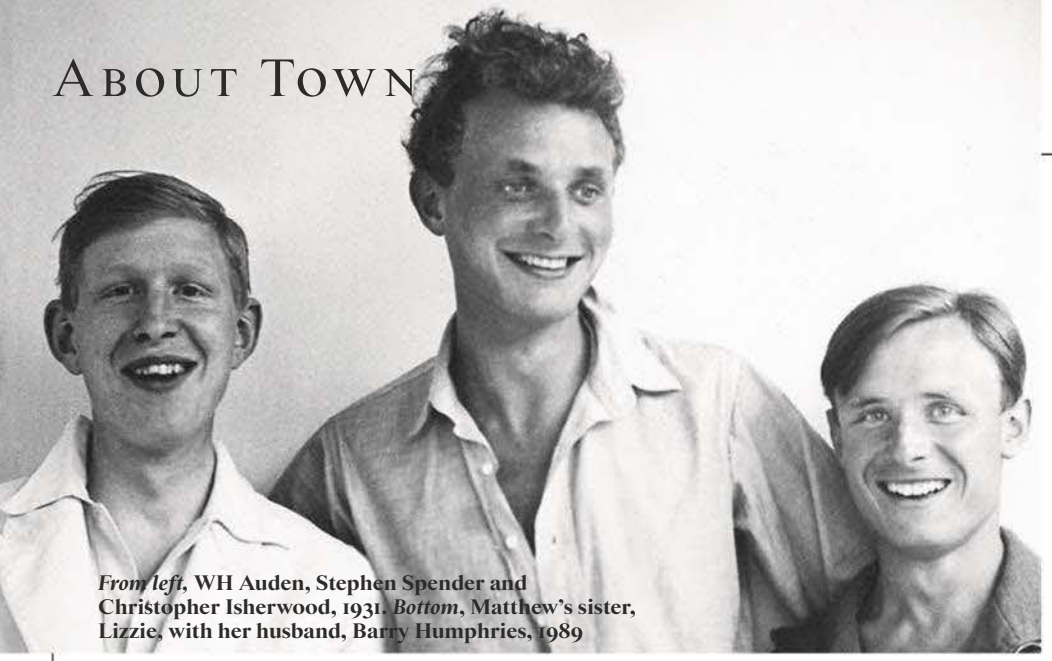
Bertolucci's Stealing Beauty was inspired by Matthew and Maro's life in Tuscany

Matthew met Maro Gorky, 72, the eldest daughter of the Armenian-American artist Arshile Gorky and a painter herself, as a teenager and has lived with her ever since. They moved to Italy in 1968 and by all appearances are living the Chiantishire dream – beautiful house, plenty of good food and wine, a vivacious social life. Except they don't hang out with Britons. 'I loathed Tony Lambton,' he says, referring to the late Lord Lambton, who lived in dog-eared splendour at Villa Cetinale until 2006. 'We had one or two absolutely disastrous lunches and then agreed never to see each other again.' Like Lambton, who was fleeing a scandal, Matthew came to Italy in self-imposed exile. 'My background is extremely complicated,' he says. 'I needed to get away. I didn't expect to stay for 45 years. But children are born and you start working and it's very difficult to leave afterwards.'

Maro was perhaps also escaping her parents: her mother was the Boston-born beauty and painter Agnes Magruder, nicknamed 'Mougouch' ('little mighty one' in Armenian) by Gorky; Agnes's father was an American naval attaché, so Agnes was educated in Washington, The Hague and Switzerland, and got into communism while in Shanghai. Aged 16, she was, according to Hannah Rothschild, caught in flagrante delicto with a sailor and 'packed off to America in disgrace with 100 dollars and a suitcase full of ballgowns'. She ended up in New York as a typist for the communist magazine *China Today*, then met Gorky at a party given by Willem de Kooning, the Dutch-American abstract expressionist.

Matthew and Maro's farmhouse is the culmination of their rich artistic heritage, a visual orgy that has been likened to Charleston, the home of Duncan Grant and Vanessa Bell and nexus of the Bloomsbury Set, with its handpainted furniture and frescoed walls. ▷

PHOTOGRAPHS: THE LIZZIE AND MATTHEW SPENDER COLLECTION, NATASHA GORKY



***From left*, WH Auden, Stephen Spender and Christopher Isherwood, 1931. *Bottom*, Matthew's sister, Lizzie, with her husband, Barry Humphries, 1989**

◁ Bernardo Bertolucci's 1996 film *Stealing Beauty* was inspired by their life in Tuscany – Bertolucci is a friend and Maro was at school with Bertolucci's wife, Clare Peploe. The film tells the story of an American teenager, played by Liv Tyler, who stays at the Tuscan home of a sculptor and friend of her late mother, a poet. Although the plot was not based on real events, the film's vibe clearly reflected the bohemianism of the Spender-Gorky household. Their life there was also the subject of Matthew's first book, *Within Tuscany*, while his second, published in 2001, was a biography of Arshile Gorky. 'That's it for writing books,' he says. 'Those are the three I've got in me.'

The creative impulse has been inherited by Matthew's daughters, Saskia, 45, and Cosima, 43: Saskia, who is based in London, describes herself as 'an artist who works on the home' and Cosima is a documentary-maker – she made a film about her grandmother and has just finished another about the Palio horse race in Siena. Matthew's sister Lizzie is married to Barry Humphries (they married in 1990; she's his fourth wife), and there is a sense that the Spenders are bohemian royalty, inhabiting a world in which everyone is an artist or related to each other. There's a moment in the book when Matthew describes a conversation with Mougouch, in which her social world and his parents' seem to overlap with dizzying effect – Mougouch had casually remarked she knew that *Encounter*, the magazine Stephen Spender founded and edited, was funded by the CIA. 'This was what Maro and I used to call a "short circuit", meaning one of those moments when her world and my world turned out to be too intimately connected.' They have always resisted getting caught up in a social vortex, here and in Italy. 'It always made me uncomfortable,' he writes. 'I didn't want us all to be riding along in the same machine.'

Matthew says there is an annoying tendency to define people by one thing they do, whereas he enjoys painting, writing and sculpting in equal measure. He certainly writes well, and the book is full of juicy material, not surprising given his father's flirtations with so many worlds.

Stephen Spender was born in 1909 and had a bourgeois upbringing in Hampstead. As a young man he was liberated, writes Matthew, by his friend WH Auden's 'extraordinary matter-of-factness about sex', so at Oxford, and then in Berlin in the Thirties, Spender led a promiscuous, guilt-free life. It seems that Auden took Spender's virginity, but what of Isherwood? 'I don't think he and Christopher had an affair,' says Matthew, 'but they shared lovers and had a tremendously male homosexual world in Berlin.' In fact, Spender was bisexual, or omnisexual. As he put it in a letter to Isherwood in 1934: 'I find boys much more attractive, in fact I am rather more than usually susceptible, but actually I find the actual sexual act with women more satisfactory, more terrible, more disgusting and, in fact, more everything.' Recently, Matthew and Lizzie consigned for sale at auction a cache of flirtatious letters between Stephen and a teenage Lucian Freud, written between 1939 and 1941, which some say suggests an affair.

'Children don't understand sex, but they know that it's there as part of the equation'

His love life was complicated: in 1933, he fell in love with Tony Hyndman and they lived together from 1935 to 1936, when he met Inez Pearn, whom he then married. At one stage, all three were living together, although the marriage collapsed in 1939, and by 1941, when he married Natasha Litvin, he was seeking a more conventional domestic arrangement.

Matthew describes his father as 'a very good conversationalist with immaculate manners, who told very good stories'. But he was detached from the social life he created; he was slightly Establishment and yet very much not. Matthew recalls being taken to his club for lunch when he was 12, and precociously saying to his father: 'I don't really see why you're in a club like this. You don't seem to have anything in common with these people... I can't see that you have anything in common with anybody.'

Was he aware that Stephen was different to other fathers? 'Yes. Children know everything,' he says. Even about sex? 'You don't understand sex, but you know that sex is there as part of the equation. Children can handle it as long as the house is there, as long as Mummy loves Daddy and the house is a stable environment. I was always aware that Dad's life was ambiguous.'

Out of loyalty to his mother, he resisted his father's attempts to make an ally of him. And he wasn't entirely comfortable with the homosexual world. When his father, lamenting the death from AIDS of his lover Bryan Obst, remarked that the disease was the worst thing to have happened in his lifetime, Matthew snapped back: 'Worse than the concentration camps? Worse than the Second World War?' Stephen replied: 'Yes. Because AIDS stops people from doing what they like with their bodies, and that freedom is the first of all freedoms.'

But Matthew respects his father's position, and saves his disapproval for his mother. When John Sutherland, critic and emeritus professor of English at University College London, wrote a biography of Spender in 2004, she would sit next to him as he went through archives. 'And if she saw John reading a compromising letter, she'd take it from him and say, "I don't think we have to worry about that."' She even took a cut of his commission, he says. 'How dare she!'

For all the bohemianism, Matthew Spender's love life, and presumably his sex life, have been refreshingly simple. He has been married to one woman for over 50 years. 'The one-night stand for me is out,' he writes. 'It's permanence or bust.' For Maro's part, her fidelity is based on a rejection of the chaos in which she grew up, caused by her mother's love affairs. They are the Saffys to their Edina and Patsy mothers and fathers. Their parents' worlds may have been more glamorous, more daring, more extraordinary. But they have achieved what previous generations of bohemians never did – making good art without shagging everyone they know. □

A House in St John's Wood is published by William Collins at £25 on 27 August.

PHOTOGRAPHS: STEPHEN SPENDER PRIVATE COLLECTION/BRIDGEMAN IMAGES, REX FEATURES

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Tessa Packard

Antonia Packard and her sister Tessa with Mark-Francis Vandelli

Tessa & Antonia at the Animal Ball

Antonia at the Vintage and Valour Ball

EVERYBODY'S FAVOURITE BRAZILIANS

Mungo Bean on the sultry sisters taking society by storm

Every now and again, a set of sisters will capture the imagination. The Mitfords, the Middletons, the Delevingnes. There's something about multiple brilliance that makes our heads spin.

The latest sister act to take society by storm are the Packards, Tessa and Antonia, two foxy and fabulous girls in their 20s. Like the Middletons, they went to Marlborough and are blessed with masses of swishy dark hair and ice-cream-smooth complexions. And the comparisons don't stop there – one of them, Antonia, has recently caught the eye of a royal, Prince Harry, which is quite a departure for the man who prefers blondes. However, it is not hard to see what attracted Prince Hal...

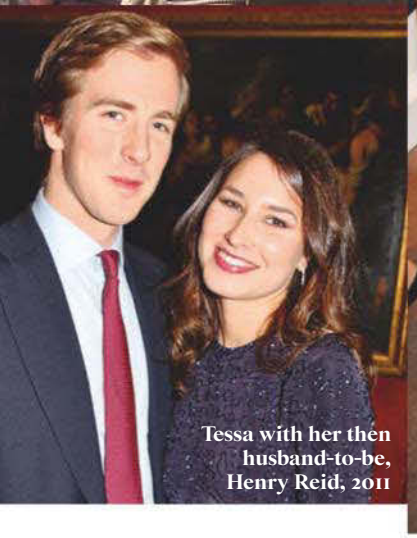
If you get the chance to meet Tessa or Antonia, you will, in the time it takes them to smoke a Camel Blue, understand why they are the most mesmerising duo in London right now. For one thing, there's the lineage. Their mother, Dulce, is a smoking-hot Brazilian, which elevates them into a whole new league of Sloane beauty. Perhaps it's this South American blood that also makes them so attractive – there's something fresh and unstuffy about these two. Smoking is something Tessa does a lot of, as well as laughing, and talking, and making big plans for the future. They both have Atlantic reserves of energy, Tessa throwing herself into jewellery design, Antonia running her very own charity.

The bad news is that Tessa has been snapped up. I'm sorry to report that she got married in 2012, to Henry Reid, a financier of Suffolk farming stock. They are currently camping out at Tessa's mother's house in Belgravia while their marital home gets done up. But then there's Antonia. Mysterious, wild, free-spirited Antonia. She is not married, but good luck seducing her. The competition is pretty stiff.

So what do you need to know? First off, the ancestry. Their great-grandfather (their father's mother's father) was J Arthur Rank, the film producer who co-founded Pinewood Studios and later the Rank Organisation, which owned 619 cinemas in 1942. So there was money and glamour, but also philanthropy – Lord Rank (as he became) was a staunch Methodist and set up the Rank Foundation, dedicated to his many charitable interests. He had two daughters, the eldest of whom, Shelagh, married Fred M Packard, a lieutenant in the US Army Signal Corps. Still with us? Good. Their son Fred went to Marlborough and became a money whizz, creating a whole new fortune of his own by co-founding the Brazilian investment trust Garantia, which was eventually sold to Credit Suisse, and later helping to set up the Latin American arm of Black Rock, the investment titan. He married Dulce and they had homes in Belgravia and Brazil. Like his grandfather, he was a major philanthropist until he suddenly died of a stroke one morning in 2009, aged 60.

PHOTOGRAPHS: TESSA PACKARD/INSTAGRAM, GETTY IMAGES, MARCUS DAWES, STYLE STREETSTALKER, REX FEATURES, HUGO BURNAND, SHUTTERSTOCK

Tessa in Scotland with her friend Milla Stafford-Deitsch



Tessa with her then husband-to-be, Henry Reid, 2011

Antonia with Pippa Middleton, 2012

This means that Tessa and Antonia are heirs not just to two enormous fortunes but also to a desire to give a lot away. Antonia has set up her own charity, the Sara Charlton Foundation, which helps victims of domestic abuse. Tessa is a tireless fundraiser, and she and Antonia have established the Young Marlburian Foundation, which aims to encourage past and present pupils of the school to raise money for those less fortunate than themselves. They are also on the committee of the Rank Fellowship, founded by their father in 2003 to help nurture young leaders. 'Charity for my father was not just about writing cheques,' says Tessa. 'He took an interest in everything he did.'

They both excelled at Marlborough and went on to Edinburgh, where Tessa read fine art and history of art, and Antonia read Spanish, landing a first. Tessa's starter job was at London art dealers Dickinson, where she worked for four years, creating a Latin American division. She left in 2013 to launch her own jewellery-design firm, Tessa Packard London. Her pieces are bold, bright and playful – classical, but with a bounce in their step. A bit like the Packards themselves. She has launched lines influenced by exotic fabrics, Mexico and the opium dens of 19th-century China. Every June, she gives a big summer dinner to thank everyone who has helped her out – guests at this year's gathering, held at Belvedere in Holland Park, included Astrid Harbord, Guy and Lizzy Pelly, and JJ Jardine-Paterson. When Tessa ting-tinged her glass to give a speech, it shattered. Wow.

Weekends for Tessa are spent in Suffolk, although the sisters also meet up in Scotland, where their parents bought a large estate on the east coast. There have always been animals in their lives: ponies, horses, hamsters, guinea pigs. But a recent addition to the Packards' lives are dogs: Tessa has a miniature wire-haired dachshund called Smartie, and her mother, Dulce, has Smartie's daughter. They never had dogs when their father was alive, but now they are utterly obsessed. 'I recently AQA'd how many miniature wire-haired dachshunds it would take to pull me on a sleigh,' says Tessa. 'The answer was 15.'

Antonia, meanwhile, has ploughed a worthy furrow, first going into investigative journalism – she worked for independent TV production company CTVC – before setting up her charity. But she also knows how to have fun – an auction that she organised in 2013 raised £230,000, the competition being aided by an inter-sister bidding war for an Emi Miyashita drawing of anatomical parts. The Packards' friendship circle overlaps with those of the young royals, so think Eugenie and Beatrice, Ruck Keenes, van Straubenzees, Guy Pelly and, of course, Prince Harry. Not that you will ever hear a word about that. Apart from good looks, fun and lineage, nothing is more attractive to a prince than discretion. ☐

FIFTY SHADES OF HARRY*

Prince Harry's romantic journey from light to dark. Hair, that is

Safari blonde

WASP blonde

Mermaid blonde

Modern blonde

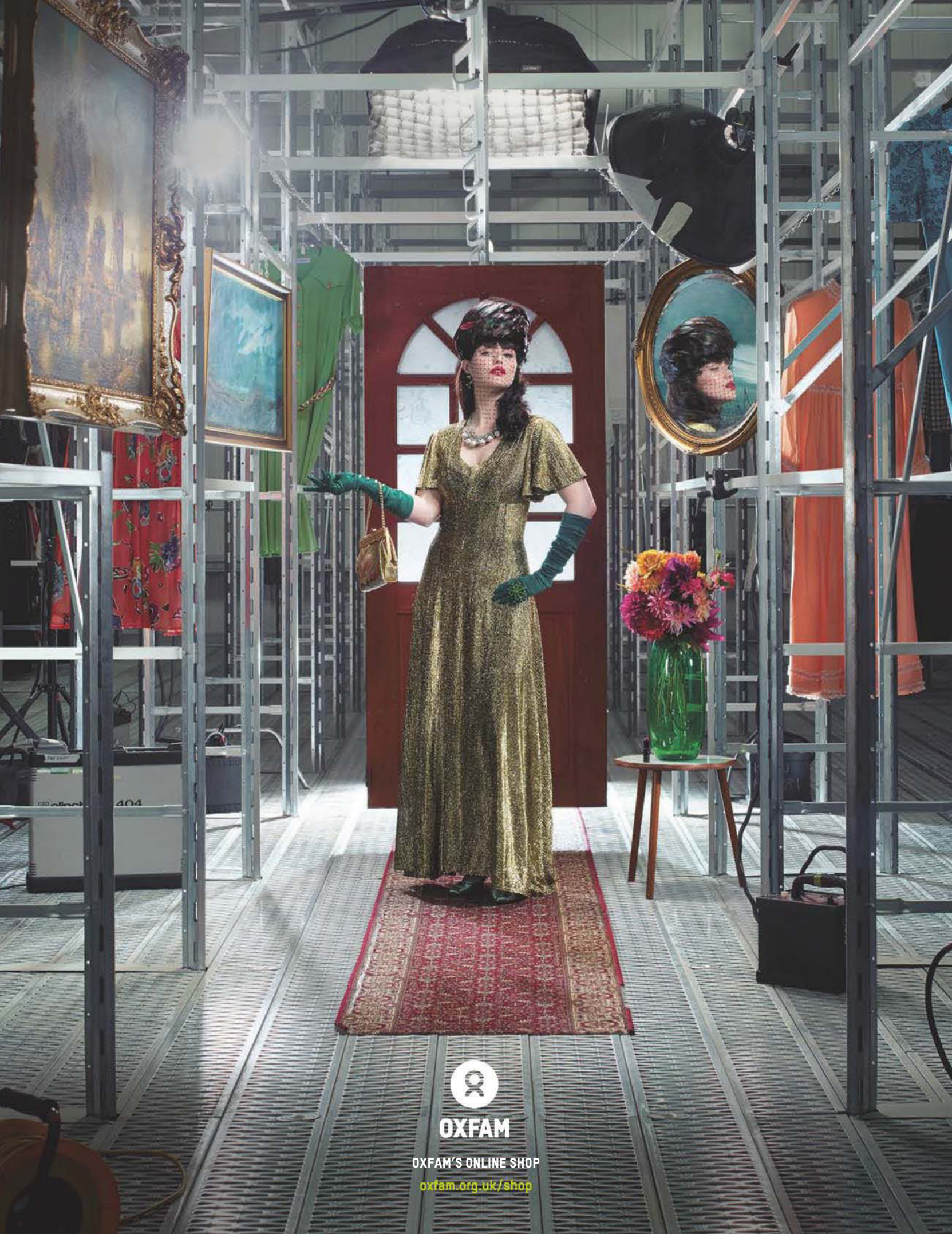
Media bronde

Dalek brown

Highland brown

Brazilian brown

*OK, WE KNOW IT'S ONLY EIGHT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Notes to 😊 self

What's not to ❤️ about emoji slippers? By Gavanndra Hodge and Ailsa Miller

The human species communicates in so many ways. Verbally, and not just with words but also with squeaks, shrieks, grunts, growls and sometimes tuts and the tremendously evocative raspberry. We use our eyes, narrowing crossly, widening them in – real or feigned – surprise, closing them when we want people to know that we fancy a nap. We can communicate using the medium of dance, which is very effective when hunting for a potential mate – less so when ordering in a restaurant. But never have we used the velvet slipper as a means of communication. Until now. Sociologists and anthropologists, take note. These emoji slippers may look traditional from afar, but they represent a turning point in the history of humanity. And like so many things, you read about it first in *Tatler* (now just imagine that music from the opening scene of *2001: A Space Odyssey*). 👍

CUSTOMISABLE EMOJI SLIPPERS IN LINEN, SUEDE OR VELVET, £345, BY **DEL TORO** (DELTOROSHOES.COM)

Don't get the hump – just follow that camel. By Emma Kennedy

Way back in the mists of time, when everyone genuinely believed Angel Delight was delicious and freeze-dried potato was somehow a good thing, there was a board game called Totopoly and it was magnificent. You may know it. You had to train horses, then race them like billy-o. It was frantic and, for some reason, a horse called Marmaduke Jinks won every single time we played, whoever was training him. It was like voodoo.

Well, now there's something similar, except, instead of horses, it's the even-toed ungulate du jour, the camel. Don't turn your nose up. I was driving in Hertfordshire recently and saw a ruddy great sign strapped to a tree. 'CAMEL RACING,' it yelled. This is now officially a thing, people, and it's already in Hertfordshire. So accept it.

Camel Up is a cracking board game. There are five camels, five coloured dice and you have to bet like fury as they make their way round the desert tiles. You bet on each leg, then bet for the overall winner. But know this – you can try to be clever and throw in an oasis or a mirage to gain an advantage, but here's the thing: it's like a REAL race. You may think you've picked the camel that's ahead, but five minutes later, you're all head in hands, wailing because your game plan is lying in tatters.

It's super. So get on with it. *£24.99 at amazon.co.uk*

But will there be caviar?

The competitive opulence of the modern children's party.
By Fiona McKenzie Johnston

What is the correct way to celebrate a six-year-old's birthday? A local church hall, a *Frozen* theme, paper plates on which crumbly sausage rolls mingle with fairy cakes and Quavers and no one touches the hummus and carrot sticks? That is one way, certainly, but in a few rarefied pockets of London things are done differently. There are private fairgrounds, there are petting zoos, there are iPods in the party bags. Some are whispering that the whole notion of the children's birthday party has got out of control, that they have become yet another arena in which wildly competitive ultra-high-net-worth individuals might vaunt their largesse. But we are not here to judge, we are only here to report...

In our investigations, we have learned of a now-legendary *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*-themed third-birthday event at the Mandarin Oriental hotel where, says one partygoer, 'the ballroom was decorated as a chocolate factory: there were giant Oompa-Loompas, chocolate fountains, ice-cream vans and cotton-candy machines; an actual merry-go-round and a train ride and a bouncy castle.' Five-star hotels are certainly a feature – there are children's parties in the ballrooms of the Dorchester, Connaught and May Fair hotels, with DJs and dancefloors. Party planners, including Kasimira, Quintessentially Events and Les Enfants, have found themselves working with budgets for under-10s of up to £150,000.

This is a peculiarly London trend and may be down to the more international nature of the capital. As one seven-year-old from Kensington points out: 'Europeans and Americans give the best parties.'

But the English are joining the fun too, because no one wants their child to become famous for throwing the *worst* parties in the class. And so save-the-dates are sent out at the beginning of term in September – to prevent event clash. Master bakers need to be consulted early about a unique, multi-tiered creation. 'The cake really matters,' insists a Holland Park seven-year-old. 'Mine always comes from Peggy Porschen.'

In addition to cake, the catered food is expected to be nutritiously balanced, organic and free range. Ottolenghi is popular. Polled parents agreed that they were more likely to come to a party if it was being catered. Sending the nanny is thought to be both 'unspeakably rude' and a snub.

A party that took over an entire Hammersmith theatre to watch a rave-reviewed musical unsurprisingly benefited from almost 100 per cent parental attendance. And at one recent party at the Dorchester, there were three separate anterooms: one for parents, one for European nannies, another for Filipina nannies. In the meantime, a young, pretty and slightly scruffy mother got mistaken for the au pair at a party in a Holland Park mansion, and spent the duration corralled into

HOW TO TELL IF YOU ARE AT A MINI SUPER-PARTY

There is valet buggy parking
The goodie bags are nappa leather
All those scary-looking dads are actually bodyguards
The invitations are embossed
Yotam Ottolenghi is making the sandwiches
David Guetta is on the decks

Phones must be left at the door – Mia wants to let her hair down
If it's a sleepover, linen is personalised and gifted
There are vitamin B drips on tap for weary mothers – so witty. But not for the knackered nannies – that would be *de trop*
Fashion illustrators sketch the guests and the pictures will be framed by going-home time
The invitation requests that you bring ID
Mario Testino is taking the party pictures
Everyone gets a micro pig to take home (with details of a 'happy farm' for when the owner gets bored) ***AR***

PHOTOGRAPHS: DON HONEYMAN/CONDE NAST ARCHIVE, ISTOCK

shepherding children from one activity to the next.

Many parents dream of the day their sprog turns six – the golden cut-off age – when children can be dropped off at parties and other parents no longer need to be entertained: 'God, it's going to be a relief' is the consensus. But the next stage brings its own issues, not least the change in expectations when it comes to entertainment. Bespoke, if you please, whether that means a Bond party with a helicopter ride, a staged kidnapping and RIBs racing up and down the Thames – or a two-day, three-location St Trinian's-themed affair with professional actors and actresses employed as schoolmasters and schoolmistresses. One American mother organised a weekend with a TV production company, during which the 10-year-olds wrote, filmed and starred in their own mini feature films. Slightly more low-key are invitations to houses in the country – though it seems less low-key when you discover that Sharky & George are providing two days of entertainment. And what if the house concerned isn't actually in this country? Ten seven-year-old boys were recently NetJetted to the Alps for a couple of days' skiing by some Canadian parents.

Rumours abound of present lists, although no one will confirm it. Many a rookie has left a party with the realisation that their going-home present is worth considerably more than anything they may have dropped off. The acceptable minimum for a party gift hovers at around £40, but can easily go up to £100 for the mother of a reception child keen to ensure continuing invitations – 'I just wanted to make sure she made friends.'

Of course, there are still plenty of parents who organise soft play (if Bramley's in North Kensington is good enough for Blue Ivy Carter...) or paintballing or the cinema simply because that's what their child would most like – though they do tend to book the whole of the Electric. □

Quentin Letts

KEITH SIMPSON

The veteran Tory MP who trashed his trademark tache

Who killed Cock Robin? And – hey! – who stole Keith Simpson's moustache? Simpson is the barrel-chested, suede-shoed, kerchief-parping Rt Hon Member for a swampy part of mid-Norfolk known as the Broadland constituency. Until recently, he sported, in addition to his large, round spectacles, a wide moustache. Pure Groucho Marx.

A few months ago, the moustache disappeared. Victim of another 'swingeing Tory cut'? Well, yes, in a sense. One morning, Simpson was at his bathroom mirror, doing a bit of edging work on that tache (any gardener will know what a chore this sort of thing is), when his hand slipped. Whoaa! Before he knew it, he had accidently razored away one end of the old bristler. There were two options: trim the other end to match and end up looking like Adolf Hitler, or mow off the thing in its entirety. He opted for the latter. The Commons went into mourning for days.

'Commander Keith' is a Westminster legend. At first glance, you might suspect he is a Blimpish fogey, one of those militaristic shire Tories that faded with (his political lodestar) Harold Macmillan. Yet, up close, Simpson is twinkly, clement, clued-up, terrific fun. With several military history books to his name, he is clever too.

Born in Norwich in 1949, he was reared in what he describes as 'the non-commissioned officer class' (his father was a cost clerk, his mother a typist). His maternal grandmother, a Margaret Rutherford lookalike, was a stalwart of the local Conservatives and, in the 1959 general election, young Keith toured East Anglia in the back of her Morris Minor, helping to stuff Tory leaflets through letter boxes.

School was a Norfolk grammar. He read history at the University of Hull and threw himself into Conservative national student politics. Hull was a hotbed of trendy socialism but Simpson relished being unfashionable. After postgrad research at King's College London, he taught military history and defence studies at Sandhurst. Students who slept through his (actually scintillating) lectures included the future King Abdullah II of Jordan and several of today's British Army top brass. In Mrs Thatcher's third term, he became a Ministry of Defence special adviser. He made it to the Commons in 1997 and, after a front-bench stint in Opposition, would have become a minister in 2010 had David Cameron won alone. Coalition compromises put paid to that, and Simpson became William Hague's parliamentary private secretary. Earlier this year, he became a member of the Intelligence and Security Committee and, with it, a privy councillor.

Simpson, whose wife Pepi was a regular in the Women's Royal Army Corps (salutes all round at bedtime), was a guest on the infamous Channel 4 *After Dark* programme when the late Oliver Reed was so spectacularly stocious with drink. Watch it on YouTube and you'll spot a youthful K Simpson doing his best to keep a straight face as dipso Olly goes over the edge.

This loyal, decent One Nation Tory has seen the party float back to him philosophically. Simpson is unofficial colonel-in-chief of the Tory backbenchers' 'Breakfast Club', who assemble most days for fried bread, snorkers and gossip. He gets his kicks out of watching the foibles of younger creatures and that cross little bantam, Speaker Bercow. In the Commons, Simpson sits at the very back in the far right corner, bubbling with merriment, always the historian, observing, noting and drawing shrewd conclusions that will last a lot longer than the thrusters who briefly stand in the limelight he himself will never occupy.

Quentin Letts writes for the Daily Mail.

Illustrated by GERALD SCARFE

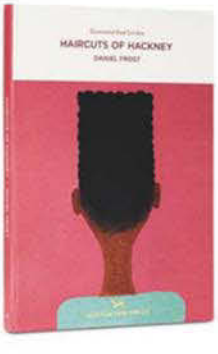
Books

Fun for everyone: pagan pastimes, hipster haircuts and sex-toy shenanigans. By Sebastian Shakespeare

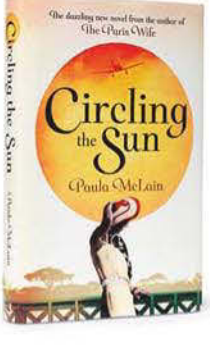
ARCADIA BRITANNICA BY HENRY BOURNE
(Thames & Hudson, £18.95)
There are some glorious British summer traditions that never change. The Glastonbury mud bath. The flash of oars and clash of lurid blazers at the Henley Royal Regatta. Strawberries and cream at Wimbledon. The annual cheese-rolling competition in Stilton, Cambridgeshire...

But true English folklore has for too long been the embarrassing relative in our seasonal calendar, evoking mocking, scorned images of morris dancers with blacked-up faces. Refreshingly, this book is a vibrant and defiant celebration of the British folklore scene and shows that it has a rich cultural history rooted in Celtic myths and early Christian rites. Within its pages are stunning photographs of witches, coconut dancers, straw men and pearly kings and queens, taken at some of the 700 folkloric events that occur around the country. Bourne has done us proud – he's produced a spectacular visual portrait of Britain at its most eccentric.

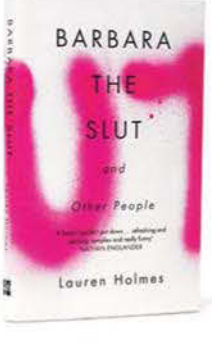
In essence, as an introductory essay explains, this *Jerusalem*-like activity is all about diversity, good-natured revelry and dressing up – and, oh, how we Brits love to dress up. Folk festivals are at once great entertainment and a link with our past. Blacking up, for instance, far from being an example of crude racial stereotyping, was an effective form of disguise, often employed when the performers should have been working, not dancing and drinking. Cheers to that. All festive life is here.



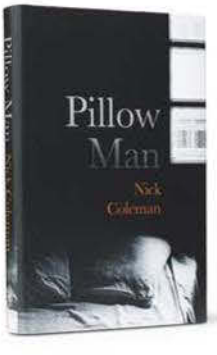
HAIRCUTS OF HACKNEY BY DANIEL FROST *(Hoxton Mini Press, £12.95)*
Moptop, hi-top, man bun, comb-over, duck's arse... Daniel Frost's paintings of the backs of Hackney heads are a visual record of the weird and wayward haircuts you'll find in east London, the epicentre of self-expression and coiffed confidence. His fold-out book captures London's myriad personalities in a few simple strokes. What larks among the locks! Get ye to the hairdresser!



CIRCLING THE SUN BY PAULA McLAIN *(Virago, £14.99)*
The author of *The Paris Wife*, a bestseller written in the voice of Ernest Hemingway's first wife, takes on another real-life character for her latest novel. This is McLain's imagined story of Beryl Markham, a daredevil aviator and member of Kenya's Happy Valley set who became tangled in a love triangle with Karen Blixen and big-game hunter Denys Finch Hatton. McLain brings the scandalous past to vivid life.



BARBARA THE SLUT AND OTHER PEOPLE BY LAUREN HOLMES *(Fourth Estate, £12.99)*
A fresh and darkly funny debut collection of short stories about family, friends and lovers. Holmes has an enviable lightness of touch combined with a bracing honesty. A law-school grad takes a job selling sex toys, a woman prefers the company of her pit bull to that of her foreign lover and, in the title story, Barbara navigates her high school's poisonous, slut-shaming culture. Sassy and savvy.



PILLOW MAN BY NICK COLEMAN *(Cape, £17.99)*
This must be the first time in fiction where the pillow talk precedes the love affair. Toiling amid the Egyptian-cotton sheets and goose-down pillows of an Oxford Street department store, our shop-assistant hero chats up a female customer and a relationship blossoms. But in an intriguing twist, it transpires the pair have already met before. A quirky, well-written romance cum mystery tale. □

STILL-LIFES: JODY TODD

Art for sale

Deep purple, little ponies and wigging out with John Waters. By Josh Spero

SILK CUT (£230)

PURPLE DRESS (2008) BY RUVAN WIJESOORIYA, EDITION OF 100

WHY BUY As a sometime fashion photographer, Wijesooriya is always at the sharp end of a trend, but here he has managed to surf two at once. This photo – a fluttering purple silken apparition; it's hard to say if it's whipping forward or flouncing out – will be sold on a website created by the Swedish vodka brand Absolut, thus combining the rise of online art sales (Trend 1) with the luxury-goods industry's patronage of art (Trend 2). Absolut Art is starting with Stockholm-based artists – selling work in editions – before moving on to artists operating out of London, Berlin and elsewhere. Very reasonably priced, the works come with pedigree and elegance but, sadly, no vodka.
WHEN From the end of August.
WHERE absolutart.com.

TRASH TALK (£5,800)

BEVERLY HILLS JOHN (2012) BY JOHN WATERS

WHY BUY His films are in the worst possible taste, which is exactly why we love John Waters, director of camp classics like *Pink Flamingos* and *Hairspray*. Here, the 'Pope of Trash' has photoshopped himself to within an inch of his life – blowing up his lips, poking out his cheekbones, applying a hideous wig. He knows that herein lies ridicule, but he also has a touching sensitivity to the ladies of Beverly Hills, who would sooner die than age.
WHEN Until 15 August.
WHERE Sprüth Magers, 7a Grafton Street, W1 (spruethmagers.com).

A NAGGING FEELING (£550,000)

BRONZE VOTIVE HORSE (750–730BC)

WHY BUY Few magazines have readers as closely associated with fine equines as *Tatler*, but even the most majestic thoroughbred might struggle to compete with such a noble chap as this. The tiny sculpture wouldn't have taken pride of place on a Greek mantelpiece – it was made to be given away. Human or animal figurines were dedicated to the gods in their temples when you wanted something, symbolising how great a gift you'd proffer if they answered your prayer. We ought to have a modern version, I think – like pledging your Chanel clutch to the church bazaar before school places are announced.
WHEN Until 28 August.
WHERE Kallos Gallery, 14–16 Davies Street, W1 (kallosgallery.com).

PHOTOGRAPHS: JOHN WATERS COURTESY OF SPRUTH MAGERS/MARIANNE BOESKY GALLERY, NY

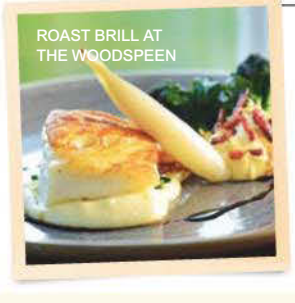
Restaurants

It's one hell of a ride at this Newbury newbie, says Jeremy Wayne

A funny old place is Newbury. Good for racing but a bit of a lottery in the restaurant stakes. At the high end, there's the Vineyard at Stockcross, Classic FM founder Sir Peter Michael's fancy-pants hotel, with its dancing fountains and wine list longer than both your arms (and legs). At the lower end, pubs aplenty, some all right and some a bit Arthur Daley. But there's nothing much in the middle. So when ex-Vineyard, ex-Coworth Park chef John Campbell opened his new restaurant the **Woodspeen** at the end of last year, it gave locals and not-so-locals something to cheer about. 'Jack's back,' they said gleefully, already salivating at the thought of his roast Wiltshire lamb.

You'd expect good meat here – the restored, red-brick Victorian house where the bar is used to be an abattoir. Behind it, in a new construction of timber and glass, is the restaurant itself, a big and airy dining room, brimming with light. There are tables outside too.

HOW MUCH
About £100 for two
WHAT TO EAT
Crayfish cakes, Sussex beef with béarnaise
WHAT TO DRINK
Lord Rivett bitter, Turkish whites
WHO GOES
Trainers, jockeys, farmers



ROAST BRILL AT THE WOODSPEEN

My pint of Lord Rivett bitter arrives with homemade sage and onion crisps, and a bowl of hummus so good I could scoff the lot and call it a day. But the show's only beginning. Here come lamb-belly croquettes, paddling in a pea and mint soup, and crayfish cakes the size of tennis balls, with a tangy grapefruit mayonnaise; and glossy mackerel fillet with pickled mooli and a slab of brill as big as a paving stone, with shallots and purple-sprouting broccoli. And we haven't even got to the main courses yet.

Whatever you say about the Woodspeen, you can't say they let you go hungry. For me, the portion sizes are just fine, although I find at least one element too many in a couple of the dishes. But at its unpretentious best, the Woodspeen is terrific – Sussex sirloin with triple-cooked chips, or a fabulous lemon meringue pie. The waiting staff are an enthusiastic lot, and I'm even a convert to the resiny Turkish wine – a steal at £20 a bottle.

'We're just doing simple food, perfectly in season,' says Mr Campbell, buttonholing me on the way out. 'Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication,' I should reply, quoting da Vinci. But I only remember the aphorism when I'm halfway back to London. *At Lambourn Road, Newbury (01635 265070).*

WHITE CHOCOLATE, RASPBERRIES & SORBET AT WHATLEY MANOR

SIDE ORDERS

THE DINING ROOM AT WHATLEY MANOR

Malmesbury, Wiltshire (01666 822888)

I've long been a fan of this country-house hotel, with its glorious gardens where you can walk off the excesses of Martin Burge's dangerously good cooking. He has recently introduced three tasting menus – caramelised foie gras with pear and ginger and Cornish turbot with oyster and lime cannelloni are two of the standouts.

HIPPING HALL

Cowan Bridge, Kirkby Lonsdale, Lancashire (01524 271187)

PICK ME!

This small, perfectly formed restaurant is a gem. Locally born chef Oli Martin does wonderfully gutsy dishes like Cartmel Valley rabbit with lardo and borlotti beans, but anything you eat here will be well thought out and delicious. Good, reasonable wine list too, and, with 15 guest rooms, a great house-party atmosphere.

WALLED GARDEN CAFE

Gordon Castle, Fochabers, Morayshire (01343 612333)

Sourcing is integral to Scotland's answer to Petersham Nurseries, on the site of a beautiful Victorian greenhouse. Moray beef, lamb and poultry come from within a few miles' radius, with fish and shellfish from the local coast and fruit and vegetables from the garden. If you can't say Fochabers without smirking, they won't let you in. Quite right.

THE BARFLY Love Die Late, W1

What a gripping place once-drab Great Portland Street has become: the kookiest clothes shops and the coolest restaurants and bars, such as Love Die Late (which is a café until 5pm). Head barman Nico Piazza makes his own syrups and infusions to create the wickedest cocktails,

like the Limassol Fever – Leblon cachaça, lime, egg white and Pernod Absinthe drops. Lawks! With its black-and-white chequerboard floor, retro tables and baby-blue Fifties chairs, Love Die Late couldn't look more innocent. But then that's half the fun, isn't it? *lovedielate.com*

SAVOY

KASPAR'S
SEAFOOD BAR AND GRILL

Show-stopping seafood bar and luxurious all-day dining in a dazzling Twenties setting. Open from 7am to 11pm. To make a booking, please contact +44 (0)20 7420 2111.

kaspars.co.uk

Gadgets

A brilliant collection of gadgets to give to people for whom you have no affection – the gift-way to say we are not friends. By Emma Freud

PASS-AGG PRESENTS

Electric-shock collar

Amano tongue cleanser

Remote helicopter

Golf pee stick

Doormat scales

Singing deer

ELECTRIC-SHOCK COLLAR

For people who take a hard line when it comes to training dogs. Put the collar round the dog's neck and if the dog does something you don't like, press a button and it gives the dog a little electric shock. Only it's fine because it has the word 'humane' in the product description, so, yeah, that. BUT imagine how useful it might be in so many other situations – for example, for children who insist on asking questions while you are talking. For grannies who get spinach stuck in their teeth and it's embarrassing for everyone if you point it out verbally. For columnists every time they are A WEEK LATE in handing in their copy (sorry, Gavanndra). For Katie Hopkins every time she says something offensive (you can get extra batteries). *£8.50 at amazon.co.uk*

AMANO TONGUE CLEANSER

At long last, I have managed to find SOMEONE who is taking tongue cleaning seriously. The Amano tongue cleanser is leagues ahead of the rest of the field – designed in Italy to give a superior and long-lasting tongue-cleaning performance, it swiftly and VISIBLY removes the complex and possibly deadly bacteria lying dormant in your mouth. Its two-handle design counters the gag reflex, so you can finally clean farther back on your tongue, where the really hardcore debris lurks ominously. In fact, so sturdy are the scrapers that they have customers who have been using the SAME AMANO for more than 20 years. Just imagine. Actually, please don't. Give this to someone and I think your idiosyncratic message of friendship will come across loud and perfectly clear. *£12 at amanotonguecleanser.com*

GOLF PEE STICK

Ideal gift for a male golf enthusiast who has hygiene issues (I know... it's a sexy description, isn't it?). Next time he has drunk several beers between holes, is caught short at the 14th, finds it's a half mile back to the clubhouse loos and just doesn't want to go toilet against a tree in front of his chums (especially if one of them is his boss), here is the answer – he pulls out his UroClub, unscrews its triple-seal, leakproof cap, clips the privacy towel between the UroClub and his belt and relieves himself into the pee chamber before bouncing back into the game. The wee-wee will be carefully stored inside the waterproof golf-club handle and can be emptied at a later date... OR (preferably) it can be forgotten about and discovered two months later when he next plays golf, mistakes the UroClub for his favourite putter, unscrews the cap thinking it's a handle protector and covers himself in stale pee. Bingo! *£13 at uroclub.com*

DOORMAT SCALES

Cruel but inspired – a doormat that weighs every guest as they arrive. Can you imagine the LOLs? Katie Hopkins: 'Cooeee, I'm here – can I come in?' Me: 'Yes – wipe your feet on the mat though – it's wet outside.' Katie: 'Oh. OH. But the mat... it's... you know... telling me what I weigh!' Me: 'And how much is that, Katie Hopkins?' Katie: 'Well it's... it's private, isn't it?' Me: 'Not any more.' *In development*

SINGING DEER

You already know that thing when someone makes you a godparent to their son but unfortunately you don't like the parents, let alone the child, and you long to be relinquished of all responsibilities, so you buy the five-year-old boy a large drum kit and then you never hear from them again. Well, this singing deer is a bit like the adult version of the drum kit. It's so sweet-looking that your 'friend' will want to put it on their wall – but then when anybody comes within 15 feet of its radar, it will start to sing 'Rawhide' while waggling its ears, opening its mouth and shaking its head. Come on, what's not to love about that? NB I once had a life-sized Father Christmas version of this – when anyone came close, it sang 'Frosty the Snowman' and started to do a jolly dance. I put it on my front doorstep full of Christmas cheer, but tragically on that first night it was stolen. Two nights later, the thief brought it back and reinstalled it on my doorstep. I wasn't sure whether to be overjoyed or insulted. *£27 at funslurp.com*

REMOTE HELICOPTER

I have thought long and hard about how to describe this gadget to you and arrived at this. It's a fuck that flies for people who don't give a. *£20 at amazon.com*

Give this to someone and your idiosyncratic message of friendship will come across loud and clear

NEXT MONTH THE BEST APPS I COULD FIND (PS WHEN I SAY BEST, I MEAN STUPIDEST)

This is me on Twitter – @emmafreud

Book your ticket now
wired.co.uk/
retail15

November 23, 2015
London

For more information and
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WIRED Retail

Together with valtech_

WIRED's one-day event exploring the digital disruption of retail is back for a second year. Hear from more than 20 Main Stage speakers, plus 15 startups and discover the future of commerce

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TICKETING PARTNER Eventbrite

The *Kate bag & Wolf boots*
Available at Kurtgeiger.com
KURT GEIGER

PERSPEX & GALVANISED-BRASS BAG (CHAIN NOT INCLUDED), £995, BY CHARLOTTE OLYMPIA. STILL-LIFE: PSC

TATLER

IN ASSOCIATION WITH **KURT GEIGER**

requests the pleasure of your company as we unveil

THE NEW FASHION RULES

while enjoying a bit of shopping porn.
And maybe having a laugh.
Who knows…?

Words by Annabel Rivkin
Styled by Sophie Goodwin
Photographed by Alex Bramall

Dress Togas.
Only joking.
But togas are sexy, no?

WHITE TIE & TIARA

Release your inner toddler. Let her rule every choice. And when you're about to leave the house, look in the mirror and put one thing more on.

DOUBLE-SATIN & ORGANZA DRESS, POA, BY **ULYANA SERGEENKO COUTURE**

CRYSTAL & LEATHER HEELS, £735, BY **AQUAZZURA**

LEATHER BAG, £3,974, BY **CHANEL**

STATE OCCASION

The only time one looks appropriate rather than ridic in over-the-elbow gloves. You must be irreproachable. Think Mitford.

PLATINUM, DIAMOND & GREEN-TOURMALINE EARRINGS, £26,000, BY **TIFFANY**

DRESS, £972, BY **EMILIO DE LA MORENA**

LEATHER HEELS, £220, BY **KURT GEIGER LONDON**

WHITE TIE

So this is where you unleash your inner fashion psychopath. In other words, it is the spiritual home of your true, undiluted fashion identity. If you are minimal, then – pow! – pare things down. If you are colourful, then give it the full bird of paradise. If you are a diva, then... wham! And if you are all floral and girlish, then it's playtime. As with your wedding day, a white-tie party is not the time to experiment. The moment you try to be who you are not, the inauthenticity will show and people will feel slightly seasick when they look at you.

White tie is where you play to your strengths. And, seeing as you have to wear long, it evens out the playing field for those whose pins are not focus-pullers. It helps out the chicks with thighs and hips and tits. Because white tie is where womanly lives.

As for dos and don'ts? Careful with the slashed to the thigh and slashed to the navel unless you are going to the British Soap Awards. And wear long. Always long. That's the entire point. ▷

GOLD, WHITE-GOLD, DIAMOND & EMERALD NECKLACE, FROM £599, BY **LOQUET LONDON**

SILK-LUREX GOWN, £2,150, BY **MARIOS SCHWAB**

GLYNDEBOURNE

Something you can move in, unpack the picnic from the back of the car in. Something you won't freeze in. Not a fashion show.

SUNGLASSES, £330, BY **DIOR**

PLEXIGLAS CLUTCH, £7,137, BY **CHANEL**

EURO WEDDING

Jewels and a hairdo. If it's not couture, it needs to pass for it. This lot don't trust a hippie.

BEADED TULLE DRESS, £8,850, BY **RALPH LAUREN COLLECTION**

SATIN & LEATHER HEELS, £1,210, BY **MANOLO BLAHNIK**

STILL-LIFES THROUGHOUT: PSC, SUDHIR PITHWA

WHITE TIE

THE SPIRITUAL HOME OF YOUR TRUE, UNDILUTED FASHION IDENTITY

VELVET GOWN, £5,380, BY **DELPOZO**. SUEDE HEELS, £445, BY **PIERRE HARDY**. PERSPEX CLUTCH, £95, BY **KURT GEIGER**. CRYSTAL & PEARL EARRINGS, £82, BY **AMISHI**

SILK-GEORGETTE DRESS, £2,000, BY **MICHAEL KORS COLLECTION**. PYTHON BAG, £1,760, BY **TYLER ALEXANDRA**. SUEDE HEELS, £220, BY **KURT GEIGER**. GOLD-PLATE & CRYSTAL EARRINGS, £54, BY **AMISHI**

BLACK TIE

RED-CARPET DRESSING WITHOUT THE DANGEROUS MISS WORLD MINEFIELD

COUNTRY HOUSE PARTY

Something you can do up yourself. Nothing strapless. Nothing that needs pressing when you arrive – too grand, even if you tip big.

COTTON DRESS, £280, BY **SELF-PORTRAIT**

SUEDE & LEATHER HEELS, £270, BY **KURT GEIGER LONDON**

GOLD-TONED-BRASS & ONYX HEADBAND, £340, BY **ROSANTICA**

JACKET, £2,385, BY **HOCKLEY**

DRESS, £660, BY **GOAT**

WEDDING

Not white. Beyond that, all's fair: sky-high shoes, fur, legs out, let them look...

FEATHER & SATIN HEELS, £570, BY **AQUAZZURA**

BLACK TIE

The universe has shifted, you see. What you wear for black tie is what your mother wore for a cocktail party. Some may say that standards have slipped. We respectfully say: nonsense, old guard. Standards have merely... loosened. If white tie remains the preserve of the long, full-on, *dernier mot* in all things evening and formal and ceremonial, then black tie can embrace real pizzazz. Black tie doesn't need to worry about etiquette. There are no rights and wrongs, really, but I would say: when operating in this arena, if it's short it should be architected and if it's long it should be a little more pulled apart. In other words, a second-skin Lycra minidress will not take us beyond 21sts and a corseted floor-length proposition can feel a bit precious.

Black tie is where evening structure comfortably (comfortably?) sits. It's where boning (!), asymmetrics, sheer panelling and all that good stuff come into play. It's red-carpet dressing without the dangerous Miss World minefield that one always has to negotiate with a white-tie situation, but it is most definitely lounge suit's bigger, richer sister (see next page).

As for the old black-tie rules? Leather bags and shoes still look rubbishy with anything that could be called a proper evening dress. And shorts? Even glittery ones? Think again. ▷

SUEDE HEELS, £110, BY **KURT GEIGER**

DRESS, £1,900, BY **OSMAN**

GOLD-PLATED, CUFF, £115, BY **KATE SPADE**

PEAU DE SOIE DRESS, £540, BY **MILLY**

WORK DO

Clothes as armour. One statement to show you're a force. No tricky underwear. You can't be picking away at a knicker...

LEATHER CLUTCH, £495, BY **ASPINAL OF LONDON**

SATIN & LEATHER HEELS, £315, BY **KATE SPADE**

AWARDS CEREMONY

Nothing that will crease in the car. Trousers never work – they turn you into a cautionary tale.

DIAMOND EARRINGS, POA, BY **GRAFF**

SILK DRESS, £1,985, BY **ALEXANDER McQUEEN**

LACE & SUEDE HEELS, £625, BY **TABITHA SIMMONS**

OLIGARCH-STUFFED DINNER

Wear recognisable labels, signature bags, Graff and ridiculous shoes that, preferably, lace all the way up your pins.

LEATHER HEELS, £210, BY **KURT GEIGER LONDON**

SILK GOWN, £2,190, BY **ESCADA**

VELVET & CRYSTAL CLUTCH, £1,295, BY **JIMMY CHOO**

SERPENTINE SUMMER PARTY

Look like you can afford the art. And yet artless. You do this every night. No biggie.

LOUNGE SUIT

This, in modern parlance, just means 'smart'. Suits for men. With ties – although most forgive an open-necked shirt where they condemn a pair of Converse. That's just not a droll look any more.

And for the ladies? Well, this is where the world becomes your oyster. This is just dress 'up'. Look your best. By far the best dress code for pulling in because there are fewer nerves attached. Less commitment involved. Lounge suit, for women, kind of means 'look hot'.

The secret here is never to look corporate. No skirt suits. No leather over-the-shoulder bags, no leather court shoes or ballet pumps. You can really have fun with the bits and pieces here. Oxygenate. But don't hyperventilate unless you are among oligarchs and non-doms. The really full-on frocks have graduated to black tie over the past 20 years and, in this particular category, deshabillé is preferable to *de trop*.

Lounge suit is just a slightly disheartening label for the funnest fashion arena. We should reclaim it. Let's. ▷

SILK DRESS, £199, BY **KAREN MILLEN**

VELVET BAG, £1,100, BY **ANYA HINDMARCH**

VELVET, SATIN & LEATHER HEELS, £595, BY **JIMMY CHOO**

BIRTHDAY PARTY

Always dress like it's your birthday. It shows you care and you'll have a better time. Flirty, flippy, feathers, lace...

JUMPSUIT, £650, BY **MULBERRY**

SWAROVSKI-CRYSTAL & HEMATITE NECKLACE, £540, BY **MAWI**

5 HERTFORD STREET

A Le Smoking is a great way to go here. Never a bandage dress. Big necklace, vintage-looking or Indian.

PERSPEX CLUTCH, £95, BY **KURT GEIGER**

LOUNGE SUIT

BY FAR THE BEST DRESS CODE FOR PULLING IN BECAUSE THERE ARE FEWER NERVES ATTACHED

SILK-SATIN-GEORGETTE DRESS, £2,870, BY **GUCCI**. SUEDE HEELS, £760, BY **BRIAN ATWOOD**. GOLD & BLACK-DIAMOND EARRINGS, £1,125, BY **ILEANA MAKRI**

WEDDING

AS FOR SKIRT LENGTH? AS LONG AS NO ONE CAN SEE YOUR KNICKERS, DO YOUR WORST

CREPE DRESS, POA; ASTRAKHAN, PERSPEX & CRYSTAL BAG, POA, BOTH BY **DOLCE & GABBANA**. METAL & PEARL EARRINGS, £330, BY **DIOR**. GOLD-TONED-BRASS & PEARL HAIRBAND, £324, BY **ROSANTICA**

MOHAIR COAT, £990, BY **MULBERRY**

HAIR SLIDE, £75, BY **ROSANTICA**

ST PAUL'S, KNIGHTSBRIDGE

No hat if you're under 50. Better to have a good blowie and a hair jewel. Beautiful coat and hot, slightly mad heels – Tabitha Simmons, maybe.

SILVER-VERMEIL, GOLD & RUBY EARRINGS, £380, BY **ZARA SIMON**

SILK DRESS, £695, BY **VILSHENKO**

LEATHER SANDALS, £205, BY **ANCIENT GREEK SANDALS**

EL CHIRINGUITO, IBIZA

Zara Simon jewellery, Ancient Greek sandals (heels on the beach are, without exception, slightly tragic), Vilshenko-folky.

LEATHER BOOTIES, £725, BY **TABITHA SIMMONS**

WEDDINGS

It's still a bit shitty to wear white. So don't. But fling on black or red with abandon because those old decrees seem silly now, particularly for town weddings. To hat or not to hat is at your discretion – whichever suits you best. But no to fascinators. Never to fascinators. Burn them. They are fascinating only in their unremitting awfulness. Someone had to come out and say it. Replace them with hair jewels – fine or costume – which are playful and pretty and ageless and useful.

How do we feel about bosoms in church? Hmmm. Fine if you don't mind being gossiped about, because people will. And they'll cast aspersions. Easy enough to cover up for the service and then do the big reveal over champagne. Or wear sheer: tarty but somehow blameless. As for skirt length? As long as no one can see your knickers, do your worst.

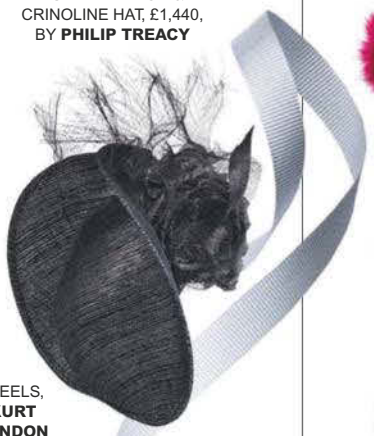
Wedding trousers are tricky – though not impossible if you have the élan and the cojones – but wedding culottes are witty. Unlike fascinators. ▷

WOOL DRESS, £1,500, BY **MULBERRY**

DEAD TRAD

Hat. Always with hair up. Shoulders covered but not by shawl – sloppy where you could be sharp. Tits in but legs out. Give the old boys something to think about.

LEATHER HEELS, £220, BY **KURT GEIGER LONDON**



LUREX-SINAMAY, BUNTAL-RIBBON & CRINOLINE HAT, £1,440, BY **PHILIP TREACY**

LEATHER HEELS, £295, BY **KURT GEIGER LONDON**

WOOL DRESS, £550, BY **RED VALENTINO**

FAUX-FUR CLUTCH, £365, BY **SHRIMPS**

CHELSEA REGISTER OFFICE

Be playful – no air-hostessy suits. Think A-line minidress. Shrimps's fake fur. Oversized bag and shades. Smudged mascara.

THIRD DATE

It's all about the underwear. No guarantees. But it'll change your whole outlook.

METAL & PEARL EARRINGS, £330, BY **DIOR**

COTTON TOP, £182, BY **CLAUDIE PIERLOT**

MACRAME BRA, £260; MACRAME THONG, £116, BOTH BY **LA PERLA**

POWER LUNCH

This is where you make difficult look easy: competitive dressing.

LEATHER TOTE, £199, BY **KURT GEIGER LONDON**

CASHMERE TWO-PIECE, £580, BY **MAX MARA**

SMART CASUAL

Yes, some people still put this on invitations. Bizarre, we know. But it is not for us to question why. Why such a vibe-killer of a dress code? Why? Why? Why? Unless it's an accountancy firm delineating its expectations for its annual golfing dinner. Please let us know if you have any dietary requirements. And all that un-jazz.

Anyway. If you are unfortunate enough to receive a smart/casual directive, do not immediately reach for a court shoe, some pearl studs and a nude tight. Know that you can – and should – look like you. But not you going to get the papers on a Sunday morning after a big night. And not you hitting the town at your most... bam!

So it's you, not in trainers or furry boots or T-shirts or anything ripped (unless it's Balmain). It's you with clean hair and a bit of make-up. It's you pulled together. It's you looking as though you've thought about what you've put on. That's all. ▷

KITCHEN SUPPER WITH DAVID CAMERON

Leather trousers, good shirt, Céline trainers. No fur. Intelligent fashion.

MOHAIR & LUREX DRESS, £690, BY **MULBERRY**

LEATHER PUMPS, £90, BY **FRENCH SOLE**

LEATHER BAG, £350, BY **MULBERRY**

GARDEN PARTY

Wear something that enables you to sit on the floor without flashing. Have a pedicure because – if it's any fun – you'll take your shoes off.

SILK SHIRT, £340, BY **EQUIPMENT**

SLIP-ON LEATHER SNEAKERS, £99, BY **KG KURT GEIGER**

LAMBSKIN LEGGINGS, £725, BY **JOSEPH**

SMART CASUAL

YOU CAN & SHOULD LOOK LIKE YOU. BUT NOT YOU GOING TO GET THE SUNDAY PAPERS

COTTON SHIRT, £180; WOOL TROUSERS, £360; LEATHER & SHEARLING COAT, POA; CALFSKIN & SUEDE BAG, POA, ALL BY **CH CAROLINA HERRERA**. SUEDE HEELS, £650, BY **JIMMY CHOO**. METAL & PEARL EARRINGS, £330; METAL EARRINGS, £360, BOTH BY **DIOR**

SUNDAY LUNCH

IF YOU'RE DOING A SKIRT, GO BARE. THERE'S SOMETHING TWINKY ABOUT TIGHTS ON A SUNDAY

DRESS, £2,260; LEATHER JACKET, £2,790; LEATHER BAG, £1,325, ALL BY **SAINT LAURENT BY HEDI SLIMANE**

FOR STOCKISTS, SEE ADDRESS BOOK. HAIR BY STEPHEN BEAVER AT JED ROOT, USING KERASTASE. MAKE-UP BY AKGUN AT THE LONDON STYLE AGENCY, USING CHANEL A/W 2015 AND CHANEL BODY EXCELLENCE. MODEL, MAY DOUGLAS AT THE HIVE MANAGEMENT. PRODUCTION, ELLE KORHALILLER. FASHION ASSISTANT, XUXA MILROSE

SUEDE JACKET, £1,310, BY **CURRENT/ ELLIOT**

SILK DRESS, £350, BY **CHINTI AND PARKER**

DENIM JEANS, £240, BY **J BRAND**

COTTON-TWILL & LEATHER JACKET, £650, BY **TROY**

COTTON-BLEND T-SHIRT, £45, BY **AMERICAN VINTAGE**

ROSE-GOLD CHAIN, £45; ROSE-GOLD LETTERS, £80 EACH, ALL BY **MONICA VINADER**

URBAN AT HOME

If you're hosting, an easy dress means you won't overheat and you'll look cute barefoot. Jeans and Equipment shirt and J&M Davidson jacket-vibe for guests.

SUNDAY LUNCH

People will judge you if you try too hard. Some even mock a heel. So this is one situation where you play to your audience. The pub on the day after Glasto does not make the same demands as meeting your boyfriend's parents for the first time.

Tactile fabric is usually the answer. The softest cashmere, the most buttery leather, the crispest cotton – all, preferably, stain-free. Because nothing shows up grubsters like the glare of the Sunday lunch.

A parka joins all the dots, really – whether it's one of those fur-lined French fancies or an orange-hooded meat-and-two-veg number.

Approach tights with caution – if you're doing a skirt, go bare or make sure it's long enough to reach the top of the boot. There's something twinky about tights on a Sunday. Something holier than thou. Just as there's something desperate about Sunday boobage.

But wear diamonds by all means if that's your schtick. That old 'no diamonds in the daytime' rule is dead and gone. If you've got 'em... ☐

THE ANGLESEA ARMS

Survivors' lunch gear. Parka, Mou boots, American Vintage T-shirt and a big Zara shawl. Cosy.

CASHMERE POM-POM HAT, £75, BY **TROY**

DENIM SHORTS, £155, BY **SANDRO**

FAIR ISLE SWEATER, £250, BY **J CREW**

LEATHER BOOTS, £220, BY **KURT GEIGER LONDON**

STATELY PILE

Sweater dress with a flat boot or wool trouser, with some J Crew. Saddle bag. Low-key but clever.

SOHO HOUSE, ISTANBUL

Many bracelets. Maje. Tassels. Suede. Isabel Marant. Extremely rich hippie.

GOLD, DIAMOND & SAPPHIRE/ PINK-SAPPHIRE/ RUBY BRACELETS, £795 EACH, ALL BY **ASTLEY CLARKE**

SUEDE HEELS, £120, BY **KG KURT GEIGER**

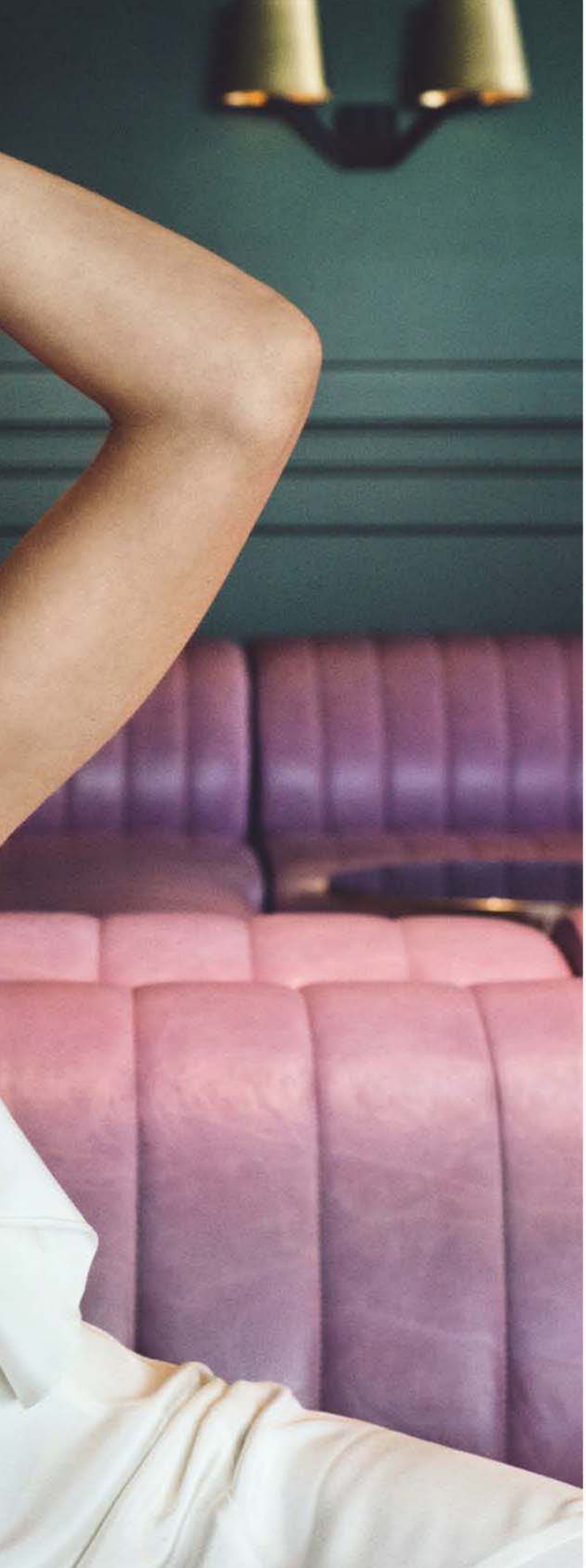
KURT G

The *Glenda boots*
Available at Kurtgeiger.com
GEIGER

FLORRIE ARNOLD WEARS SILK DRESS, £1,700, BY **ALESSANDRA RICH**. DIAMOND NECKLACE, POA, BY **GRAFF**

Styled by SOPHIE GOODWIN

Photographed by MARC HOM



BEAUTY AND THE BEATS

Florrie Arnold plays the drums and looks this good – at the same time. By Luciana Bellini

You wouldn't think it to look at her, but Florrie Arnold has had her fair share of run-ins with the law. 'When I was first trying to get into the music industry, my band and I would drive to London, set up outside the Radio 1 studio and just play until the police arrived,' she says. 'Or whenever someone would play a gig in Bristol, near where I lived, we'd break into their dressing rooms to give them our demo.' Who was the best person she gave it to? 'Jamie Cullum. Back then, I was full-on in love with him.'

Those days of breaking and entering seem a very long time ago. Last summer, Florrie, 26, signed as a solo artist to Sony's RCA Records, and September sees the release of her first single. She never actually wanted to be a pop star – since the age of seven, all she's wanted to do is drum. It started on a family holiday in Greece, when she saw a live band at the local taverna. 'The drummer let me tap along with him – I became obsessed.' Once back home in the Somerset village of Tickenham, her parents got her a drum kit for Christmas. Her first performance was in the school play – she was dressed as a fish. 'I had a green sparkly tail,' she recalls. 'It did make it difficult to reach the pedals...' A few years later, she won a music scholarship to Colston's Girls' School in Bristol and spent all her spare time holding ▷

◁ jamming sessions with her father, Stan (a comedian who played guitar for a spoof band called The Stan Arnold Combo), or playing Busted covers with her girl band, Fifi Saloon.

When she was 17, she moved to London to pursue her career and was soon working as a session drummer for Xenomania, the production company behind Girls Aloud, Kylie Minogue and The Saturdays. The first record she played on was Girls Aloud's 'The Promise', which went straight to number one in 2009. 'It was a mad time – that was Girls Aloud's peak. They were staying at the studio to make a record, and it was pretty surreal coming into the kitchen and being, like, "Morning, Cheryl – how's it going?"'

Florrie is also a model and was the face of Nina Ricci's Nina L'Elixir scent. She starred in its TV advert, skipping through woodland in a baby-pink dress and singing a cover of Blondie's 'Sunday Girl'. 'People would come to gigs and expect me to be wearing the pink dress,' she says. Now all her attention is going on the upcoming single and album launch, leaving little time for anything else – including boys. 'I'm just super-focused on what I'm doing right now, so I'm not really looking.' She lives by herself in a flat in Brighton and practises her acoustic guitar whenever she can. 'That's how I chill out, playing a bit of John Mayer.' The one thing she does wish she had more time for? Drumming. 'I get real withdrawal symptoms when I don't play. Plus my arms aren't as good now.' She flexes, revealing a neatly bulging bicep. 'When I played every day, I was RIPPED.'

SILK, LACE & SEQUIN DRESS, £9,820, BY **ROBERTO CAVALLI**

SILK DRESS, £2,473, BY **VIONNET**. PLATINUM & DIAMOND NECKLACE, £32,000, BY **TIFFANY**

BEADED SILK DRESS, £8,850, BY **RALPH LAUREN COLLECTION**. WHITE-GOLD & WHITE-DIAMOND NECKLACE, POA, BY **DE BEERS**

DUCHESSE-SATIN DRESS, £1,165, BY **EMPORIO ARMANI**

FOR STOCKISTS, SEE ADDRESS BOOK. HAIR BY KARIN BIGLER AT JED ROOT, USING SHU UEMURA ART OF HAIR. MAKE-UP BY KARINA CONSTANTINE AT CLM HAIR & MAKE-UP, USING DIOR FALL LOOK COSMOPOLITE & CAPTURE TOTALE DREAMSKIN. NAILS BY AMA QUASHIE AT CLM HAIR & MAKE-UP, USING DIOR VERNIS FALL LOOK, COSMOPOLITE & CAPTURE TOTALE NURTURING HAND REPAIR CREAM. PRODUCTION, ELLE KORHALILLER. FASHION ASSISTANT, XUXA MILROSE

WITH THANKS TO THE MONDRIAN LONDON (MORGANS HOTELGROUP.COM)

Dellal with Christina Estrada in the Nineties. *Right*, Dellal's grandchildren Alice, Alex and Charlotte Dellal, 2011. *Below right*, Dellal's daughter Gaby, 2010

Jack Dellal with his second wife, Ruanne, in the Nineties

Daily Express Thursday April 2 2015 13

Model's family in fight over tycoon's fortune

By John Chapman

THE family of top model Alice Dellal are locked in a multi-million pound court battle over the estate of her tycoon grandfather.

Jack Dellal, known as "Black Jack" who is said to have gambled £1.7million in one night, died in October 2012 aged 89.

He left his £15.4million estate to his widow, Ruanne. But Mrs Dellal, 61, says £15.4million was an "absurd presentation" of the true scale of his wealth.

The Sunday Times Rich List rated that he was worth £445million in 2012.

Legendary

She says if the fortune had shrunk", Mr Dellal must have given money away to relatives without her knowledge.

Yesterday, she won an initial end of a court fight with family members, including 19-year-old Alice Dellal's father, and Brazilian-British Alice, known for her half-shaved head and punk-rock look, has modelled Agent Provocateur underwear and was the face for Chanel bag campaign.

Details of the case emerged in a ruling published yesterday after a hearing at the Family Division of the High Court in London in March.

Jack Dellal's 96-year-old sister Violet and six of his adult children from previous relationships asked a judge to terminate Mrs Dellal's claim, arguing she had "no prospect" of success.

But Mr Justice Mostyn refused and said he wants to analyse more evidence. In his ruling, Mr Justice Mostyn said Mr Dellal, who made his money in property development, was "legendary".

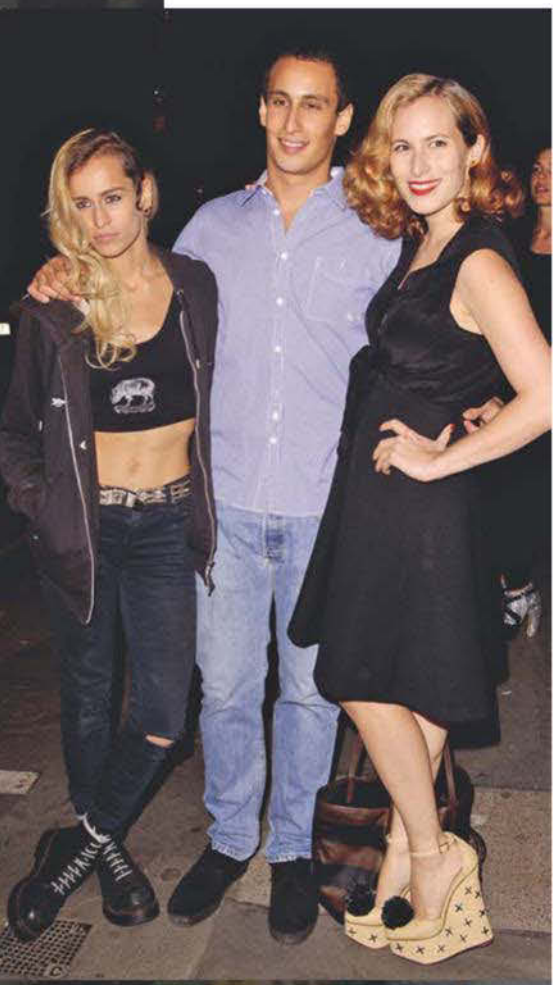
"He was born in the Chorlton area of south Manchester to parents who had emigrated here from Baghdad and who joined the Sephardic community, which made its living on the edges of the city's textile industry.

"The Sunday Times Rich List stated that he was worth £580million in 2008, £480million in 2009, £500million in 2011 and £445million in 2012.

"However the disclosed assets which comprise his estate amount only to £15.4million... [Mrs Dellal] says that this is an absurd presentation of the true scale of his personal wealth at his death."

Tracey Angus, QC, who is representing most of the relatives fighting the claim, said Mrs Dellal had "to-

Picture: RICHARD YOUNG / REX & DOMINIC O'NEILL



PHOTOGRAPHS: REX FEATURES, ANDREW FROST, DAFYDD JONES, ALAN DAVIDSON

THE MYSTERY OF 'BLACK JACK' DELLAL'S MISSING MILLIONS

Jack Dellal was a property tycoon who loved gambling and ravishing brunettes and whose legacy is a wildly glamorous dynasty of models, actors and art dealers. But since his death in 2012, they have been at war with his second wife over a £400m fortune that she says has vanished without a trace. Keith Dovkants investigates

By any measure, Ruanne Dellal is a rich woman. Her home, in an elegant Nash terrace overlooking Regent's Park, is conservatively valued at £8.5m, other properties she owns in nearby Marylebone are worth close to £4m and she has just sold her estate in Hampshire for £3.5m. She also has a home in South Africa and, what with her investments, a £4m art collection, jewellery and cash, it all adds up to a very pretty sum. So why is she pursuing a torrid legal battle against various members of her late husband's family in an attempt to increase her fortune? The question prompts an angry response. 'I am not a gold-digger!' she says, her indignation triumphing over the tears she occasionally sheds during our conversations. 'This case is about injustice.'

Ruanne says the intricacies of the affair have made her head spin,' adding 'but I'm not dumb.' It's an accurate self-assessment. Her recollection of detail is impressive, as are the attempts she has made to unravel her late husband's spectacularly complex financial affairs, a task that might daunt the most diligent of forensic accountants. But what hovers like a dark cloud over her is her sense of amazement and rage that she is, as she sees it, the victim of a gross lie told to her by her late husband. It's this that urges her on. Speaking for the first time, and exclusively to *Tatler*, Ruanne tells me of her steely determination to win in court, and of her life with the legendary London dealmaker Jack 'Black Jack' Dellal. It is a story that begins in glamour and romance but ends in suspicion, rancour and mystery over the fate of Jack's full fortune – much of which, Ruanne ▷

Ruanne and Jack Dellal, c. 2005

◁ contends, has vanished. The questions surrounding the apparent disappearance of an estimated £400m have left the extended Dellal family, one of London's most notable dynasties, at war with itself. It's a large clan, for Jack had nine children – five by his first wife, Zehava Helmer, whom he divorced in 1976; two by Katya Douglas, a long-term lover he never married; and two by Ruanne. And, for now, there appears little hope of a truce.

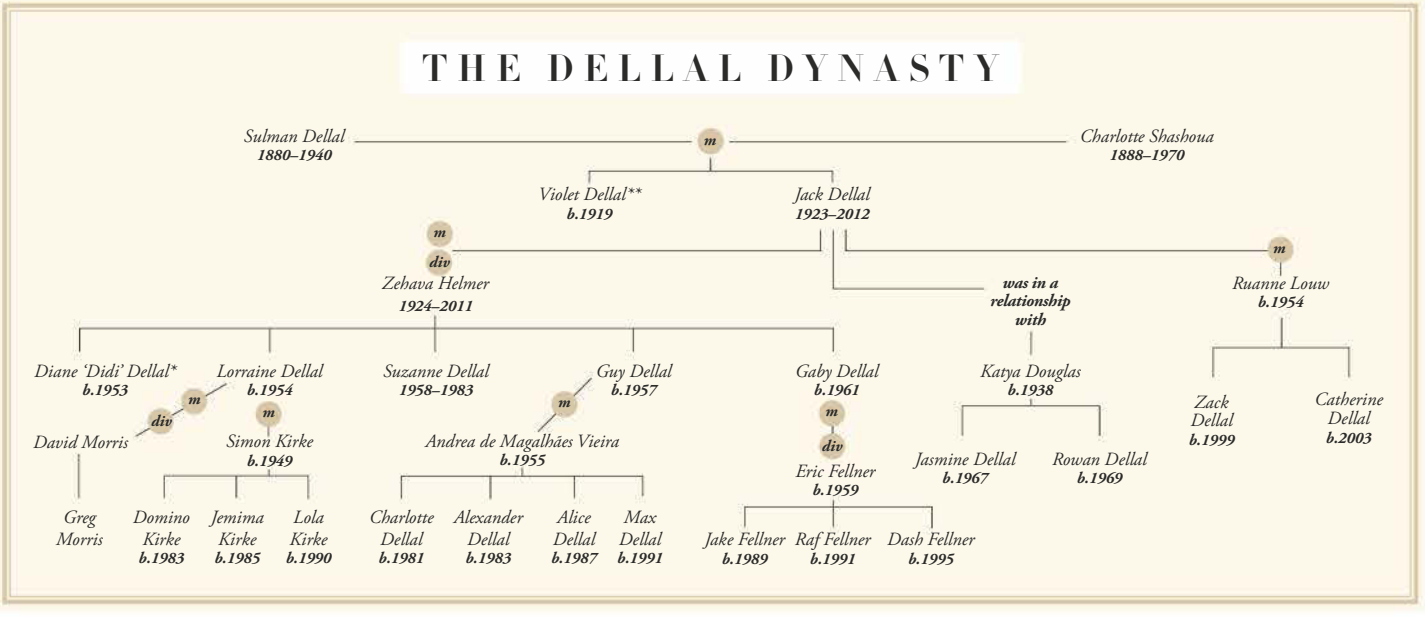
At the peak of his career, in the Eighties, Jack Dellal was reckoned to be worth close to a billion pounds. Just a few years before his death, in 2007, he didn't disagree with a lawyer's estimate that put his worth at £400m. And when he died in 2012, aged 89, he left his entire estate to Ruanne – but it amounted to only £15.4m. According to the judgment, Ruanne's net worth is £41m, but she claims at least £385m of Jack's fortune is missing. So where is it? Ruanne says that Dellal clandestinely gave it away to his close family. It was to retrieve what she saw as rightly hers that she launched an action in the High Court, against Dellal's son Guy and seven other family members. They applied to have her case thrown out, but Mr Justice Mostyn rejected part of the application, with the rest due to be heard later in the year. The matter is set to drag on through the courts, amid bitterness and hostility. 'It's one of the most bad-tempered cases I've ever been involved in,' says one of the lawyers.

How did it come to this? The Dellal clan includes many exceptional, strong individuals: Alice Dellal, the Agent Provocateur and Chanel model; Charlotte Dellal, the shoe designer behind the phenomenally successful Charlotte Olympia brand; the business tycoon Guy Dellal and his art-gallery owner son, Alex; and Guy's sister Gaby and half-sister Jasmine, both filmmakers. Not all members of the family are defendants in the court action, but six of Jack's children are: Guy, Lorraine, Diane, Gaby – all of whom were by Zehava Helmer (as was Suzanne, who died of an accidental overdose in the Eighties, aged 25), and Jasmine and Rowan, by Katya Douglas. Jack's 96-year-old sister, Violet Dellal, is the seventh defendant; the eighth is Jack's grandson Alex.

Black Jack Dellal inspired awe in many; caution in others. One obituarist noted: 'He did business as he played cards, with a mixture of bluff, coolness and more than a little cunning.' His parents were Iraqi Jews who settled in Manchester, where Dellal was born. At school he had a classmate, also called Jack. Dellal was the darker of the two and a teacher dubbed him 'Black Jack'. The name stuck. His early years were spent working with families in the Sephardic Jewish community on the fringe of the then lucrative textile industry. After the war, he moved to London and began dealing in property. By the Seventies, he was at the forefront of the banking boom, borrowing money at a favourable rate of interest, then lending it with a mark-up. When the property crash of 1973–74 struck, his bank business collapsed. Dellal went to New York for a few years, then returned to London to make yet more money in property. In 1987, he bought Bush House, then home of the BBC World Service, for £55m and sold it two years later for £130m. There were dark mutterings about turning such a huge profit so quickly, but the Department of Trade investigated and cleared Dellal of any wrongdoing. Later, he was a major investor in Shell-Mex House on the Strand.

Short and waspish, Dellal was no matinee idol. But his wit and sharp mind endeared him to many. 'People seem to find it hard to understand because of the age gap [30 years], but I loved him,' Ruanne says. 'He was very charismatic – funny and clever.' Ruanne herself is tall, almost statuesque, and definitely attractive. At 61, she looks fortysomething, and she's walked the two or so miles from Regent's Park to speak to me in her lawyer's office in Lincoln's Inn in trainers and leggings. It's not difficult to picture her in a line-up of hopefuls in a beauty contest, as she once was, back in her university days in South Africa. She laughs when I mention this, but it's not something she's particularly interested in talking about. Instead, she scrolls through a collection of family snaps. There's Dellal

THE DELLAL DYNASTY



*Married to Zurk Sokolowski **Aka Violet Seulberger-Simon

wearing a cap at a rakish angle, looking rather cool. There he is, pictured with a huge cigar clamped in his mouth, every inch the successful tycoon. And there he is, towards the end of his life, being carried in the swimming pool of their French Riviera villa by Zack, his son with Ruanne, who is now 16. 'The children adored him,' Ruanne goes on. 'So did I. In the 25 years we were together, I was never unfaithful.' Nor, she tells me, has there been any other man in her life since Jack died.

The couple met in the Eighties, after Ruanne moved to London from South Africa. She worked at setting up a clothing business and met Dellal in Aspinall's, one of his favourite haunts. 'We went on to Annabel's,' she said. 'Within an hour of meeting me, he took me to one side and said, "I want you for me."' Romance followed; Dellal told her he was almost 52. 'His birthday was coming up, so I asked his chauffeur, "What do I get a man of 52?" The chauffeur said: "Who is 52? Jack's 62."' By then, there was no turning back. They lived together for 10 years, then married in 1997.

The life they led was a lavish, exciting one, primarily at their imposing house in Regent's Park. Weekends would be spent at Manor Farm, their estate in Brown Candover, Hampshire, which had an immaculately kept grass tennis court. 'He was playing a very competitive game of tennis in his late 60s,' says Phil Voice, a landscape contractor hired to look after the tennis court and the gardens at Manor Farm. 'Woe betide me if he couldn't get the right bounce on his ball!' Voice says the Dellals entertained exuberantly: 'He once turned the lawn into a mini-Arabian desert for a birthday party. There was a big tent and tons and tons of sand.'

For her part, Ruanne remembers holidays at Villa Cumberlege, their property on Cap d'Antibes. The villa was a large house with a collection of cottages set around a pool. 'We all looked forward to going there,' she recalls. 'It was a place where we were really happy and where we spent 24 summers. Jack and I would host the whole family there, and I would organise meals and hospitality for us, for Jack's children and their families, and his sisters, who all came for prolonged visits.'

During those summers, Jack tried his luck at the Riviera casinos – he was a legendary gambler. 'I saw him lose a million pounds in a night,' Ruanne tells me. 'Not once – many times. He would also win enormous amounts. One night, I went home at midnight with a cheque for £47,000 after I cashed in the chips he had given me. I've never gambled; I used to keep him company while he was at the table and write down the numbers he had chosen so he could monitor a sequence or pattern. That night I went home, he came back at 3am, saying, "I've lost my shirt." In fact, he told me, he'd lost £600,000. I gave him my cheque to make him feel better.' In London, they would go to Les Ambassadeurs, Aspinall's or the Clermont, where Dellal played roulette, his passion – a business associate recalled seeing him play four roulette wheels simultaneously at the casino in Cannes. In 2006, he spent £3.4m at various casinos, and in April that year, he lost £1.7m in one night. His gambling was the major part of his annual expenditure, which averaged more than £4m. Annual household expenses were over £1m.

By 2007, Dellal was in poor health and preoccupied with his own decline. Ruanne says, 'I was advised to divorce Jack by my solicitor, his psychiatrist and doctors, as I had devoted 20 years of my life to him and even though I pleaded for security after his death, he simply would not give it to me. But how could I do that to the father of my children, whom I loved? It would have killed him. But I was constantly worried about the future. I was worried about security for me and the children, but whenever I tried to speak about my fears, he just said, "Trust me. You and the children will be looked after." Now I know he betrayed me in spite of holding my hand and saying, "Darling, trust me. You will have more than any of them."'

At the time, his words were persuasive. Ruanne talked to Raymond Tooth, the celebrated divorce lawyer, who is married to one of her friends. 'He said I should get a postnuptial agreement, in which Jack would give me assets equal to what I would receive if we were to divorce CONTINUED ON PAGE 223

Dellal's granddaughters, *from second left*, Jemima Kirke, Alice Dellal and Domino Kirke, with Rosie Huntington-Whiteley, 2008

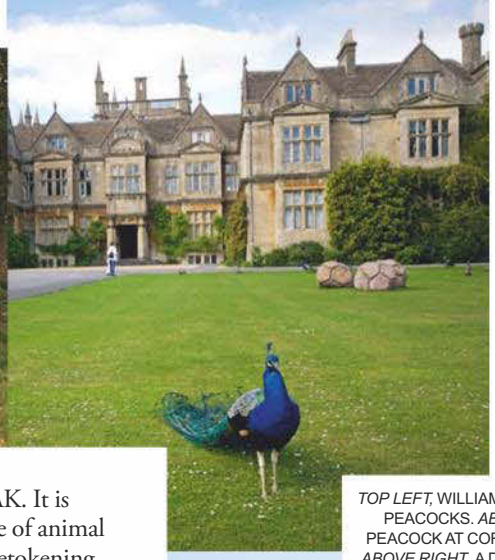
***Below*, Dellal's son Guy with his wife Andrea, 2009. *Bottom*, Dellal and Ruanne with his daughters Gaby, *left*, and Jasmine, *right*, 1997**

PHOTOGRAPHS: REX FEATURES, DOMINIC O'NEILL

The poshest bird of all

In praise of the peacock, a most elegant fowl. By Tatler's twitcher-in-chief, Sophia Money-Coutts

STRUTTING HIS STUFF: A RESIDENT OF CORNBURY PARK



TOP LEFT, WILLIAM CASH'S WHITE PEACOCKS. *ABOVE*, A BLUE PEACOCK AT CORSHAM COURT. *ABOVE RIGHT*, A DISPLAY OF TAIL FEATHERS, HUNTINGTON CASTLE

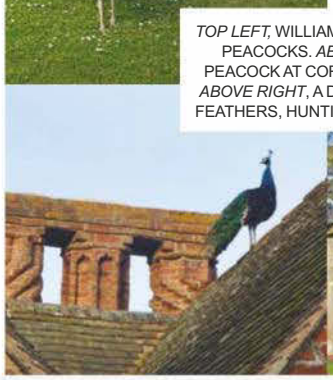
AAR-WAAK, AAR-WAAK. It is the Proustian madeleine of animal noises, an ancient cry betokening old stones, green lawns, ancestral homes, perfect Capability Brown vistas enlivened with a flash of purple, of green, of blue. Peacocks. No stately is complete without them, an ostentation (the collective noun) of them, preferably.

These silken-feathered fops are native to parts of India and Africa, and it was probably the Romans who brought them to Britain – they knew a thing or two about luxury (having invented the word, after all). They appreciated the natural opulence of the peacock, the dandyish beauty, the shimmering colours – and the extravagant feathers: a male's tail feathers, when fully spread as either warning or mating call, can reach over six feet. The Romans also liked eating peacock brains as a dinky canapé, and medieval kings like Edward III and Henry IV were more interested in consuming the birds' flesh than admiring their feathers; often the meat was minced and put into a peacock pie.

By the Victorian era, people had stopped eating peacocks and were using them largely for decorative purposes: William Morris favoured blue and green peacock patterning for wallpapers and wool fabrics. The birds had also started appearing on the lawns of big houses, as links with India fed the growing trend for menageries designed to show off their owners' exotic tastes and expansive wallets. The Countess of Warwick had several at Warwick Castle and the painter Dante Gabriel Rossetti kept some at his house on Cheyne Walk.

To this day, if you're really smart, you will have them strutting about your lawn. They're largely self-sufficient, as long as they have somewhere to retreat to at night, to avoid foxes. 'They like roosting in gatehouses and Elizabethan turrets,' says one grand peacock fancier. 'We do feed ours,' says Clare Durdin-Robertson, who lives at Huntington Castle in Ireland and owns two peacocks called Percy and Lilith. 'They absolutely love dog biscuits.'

There are several at Castle Howard and 17 at Gwydir Castle in Wales. In Shropshire, William Cash takes particular pride in a pair of white peacocks called York and Plantagenet, given to him by his wife Laura as a wedding present. Lucy Birley has recently bought three blue ones from William for her own garden nearby; her son Otis Ferry spent an afternoon in May trying to corral them into the back of his car. At Cornbury Park, Lady Rotherwick feeds her peacocks corn and 'loves' the noise they make, although she says the males are trouble in the mating season, 'attacking their reflection in any black car parked near the house'. But surely the trouble is worth it to have one of nature's most beautiful creations in your garden. ☐



CLOCKWISE, FROM ABOVE, A PEACOCK AT PRESTONFIELD HOUSE, EDINBURGH; AT CASTLE HOWARD; AT HUNTINGTON CASTLE; & AT WILLIAM CASH'S ESTATE

PHOTOGRAPHS: ALAMY, REX FEATURES, COCKTAILSANDCOUNTRYTALES.WORDPRESS.COM

Diamonds are the most portable asset in the world and the hardest to trace, which makes them perfect catnip for criminals...

...But what happens to sparklers once they have been snatched? Matthew Bell follows the trail from Hatton Garden to Mumbai and beyond

Consider the diamond. On the one hand, it is the sum of all the finest things in life – nature, beauty, purity and glamour. Per cubic inch, it is the most valuable asset you can hold in your hand, a teeny-tiny crumb of wealth. It is the noble face of money. But, on the other hand, what, really, *is* a diamond? It is the embodiment of nothing – a rock prized for its transparency. It is a natural phenomenon onto which we have grafted our dreams and ideals. It is so much and yet so little.

A diamond is the most portable asset there is. It is also one of the hardest to trace. Because of this, it has become the criminal's best friend, the most user-friendly way to move large amounts of money around the world undetected. 'You can hide a 10-carat diamond that's worth a million pounds in the palm of your hand,' says David Allen of 77 Diamonds, the Mayfair diamond traders. 'You can simply pop one in your pocket and hop on a plane. It's a very small large financial asset to have. You can take it anywhere in the world and someone will always want it.'

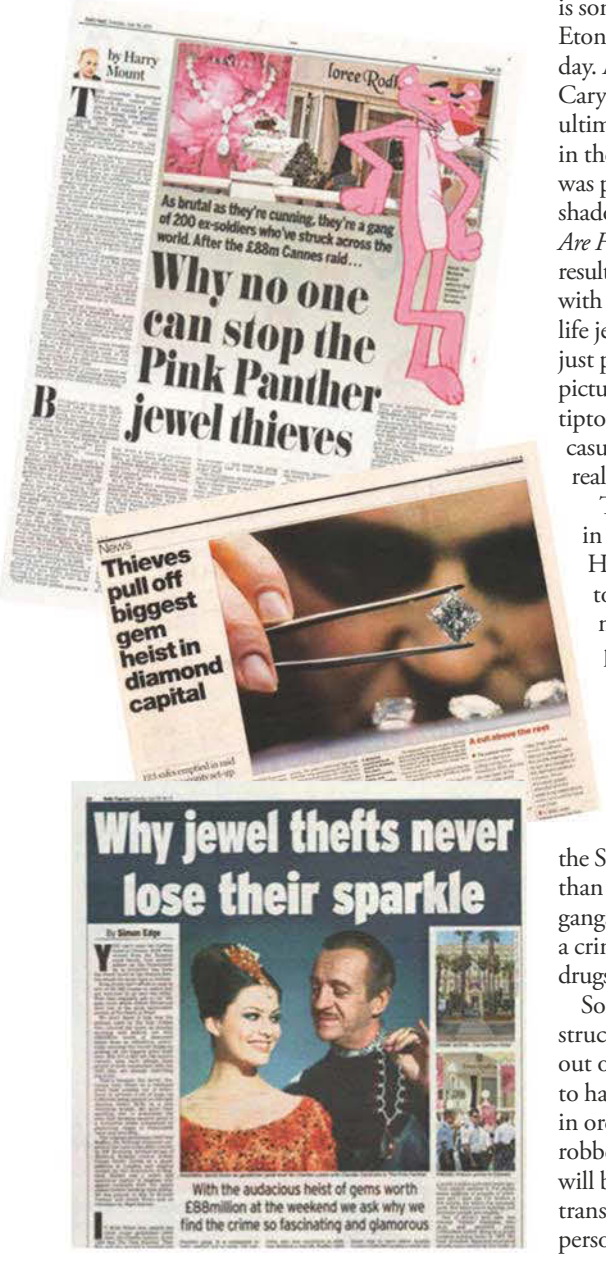
For anyone who legitimately owns a diamond, this is a constant worry. Jewellery is perhaps the least secure way to hold your wealth, as ownership of these slippery little rocks is hard to prove. It has to be on your person or in your vault for it to be yours. Money or property, or a car – these can be registered and signed for, and their ownership proven in court. A diamond, though? Even if you have it laser-inscribed, as the most reputable traders do, this will only identify the stone with a certificate. So you might take your stone to the Gemological Institute of America where they can microscopically inscribe a number onto the diamond's girdle. But this will still not prove ownership, says Allen. 'There is no central database that lists diamond ownership. It just lists specification,' he notes. 'Having a certificated diamond with a laser inscription helps prove what the stone is – it doesn't prove that the diamond is yours.' Laser inscriptions can be 'zoeted' off (polished), which means it's still relatively easy for criminals to shift stolen diamonds – they simply recut and polish them, to be sold and never seen again. The best way to prove you own a diamond, says Rosie Beattie of Moussaieff, is to have a receipt.

In recent months, the world has been gripped by stories of outrageous jewellery heists, from the tunnel drilled through a concrete wall ▷

PHOTOGRAPHS: REX FEATURES, ISTOCK, KOBAL COLLECTION

Grace Kelly and Cary Grant in *To Catch a Thief*, 1955

***Clockwise, from top*, the hole drilled through concrete by the Hatton Garden gang; Paul Reader, arrested in connection with the robbery; his father, Brian, also accused**



by Harry Mount

As brutal as they're cunning, they're a gang of 200 ex-soldiers who've struck across the world. After the £88m Cannes raid…

Why no one can stop the Pink Panther jewel thieves

News

Thieves pull off biggest gem heist in diamond capital

Why jewel thefts never lose their sparkle

With the audacious heist of gems worth £88million at the weekend we ask why we find the crime so fascinating and glamorous

◁ in Hatton Garden to the theft of watches and jewellery worth £13m from Cartier in Cannes, just days before the film festival. In April, thieves swiped Chanel jewels worth £3.6m from a collector's car when it got stuck in traffic near Charles de Gaulle Airport. The previous month, robbers held up two vans at a motorway toll in Burgundy and made off with gems worth £6.6m.

Diamonds and thieves have gone stone in hand since the very first rock was plucked from the earth. In the early 20th century, Britain was in thrall to Arthur J Raffles, the most daring and dashing of all jewel thieves. He wore white tie, lived in Albany and amused himself by masterminding outrageous thefts. He was, of course, entirely fictional, but there is something about EW Hornung's Old Etonian spin-bowler that fascinates to this day. And he has had many notable successors: Cary Grant in *To Catch a Thief* was the ultimate suave criminal, living off his gains in the South of France. Ernst Stavro Blofeld was perhaps not much of a looker, but his shadowy presence as the baddie in *Diamonds Are Forever* gave him a certain mystique. The result of having so many cool villains associated with diamonds is that we cannot read of real-life jewellery heists without wondering if, just perhaps, such a character really exists. We picture brooding gentlemen in patent shoes tiptoeing down alleyways, bags of swag casually swung over their shoulders. The reality is more prosaic.

The mugshots of the 10 men arrested in connection with the £60m robbery in Hatton Garden (and provisionally due to face trial in November) did not call to mind the first elevens of Britain's greatest public schools. No. They were a ragtag bunch of grizzled men in late to very late middle age. Theirs is not a world of white tie and glamour, but of white vans and grit. Even the Balkans-based Pink Panther gang, thought to have been responsible for many of the attacks in the South of France, sound more glamorous than they really are. They are ruthless gangsters for whom stealing jewels is part of a criminal operation that also involves guns, drugs, prostitution and human trafficking.

So what happens once the thieves have struck? The main priority is to get the loot out of the country as quickly as possible and to have it pass through a number of hands in order to distance the perpetrators of the robbery from the actual goods. So there will be a 'courier', or maybe two, who will transport the jewels in the first instance. 'The person who is actually committing the crime is usually a low-level criminal,' says Robert Read, global head of fine art at insurers Hiscox Partners. 'The low-level thief will then "hedge" the jewels to his contact, and the jewels will pass along a chain, perhaps going to a crooked cutter in Mumbai or maybe Tel Aviv, who will dismantle and reassemble them.'

The next priority is to sell the stolen property to a willing buyer, known as a 'fence', who will not ask too many questions. Reformed thief Paul Hendry says the fence will typically buy the jewels for a fraction of their original price. 'The price always tells you whether something is stolen or not. In the past, you could claim ignorance if you bought something stolen, 'cause you'd shrug your shoulders and say you didn't know what it was worth. Today, anyone with the brains of an ashtray can look something up on the internet and find out its true value.'

It's a curious fact about stolen jewellery that thieves usually recoup only a fraction of the goods' true worth. 'If you steal jewellery worth £1m, the cost of "cleaning" it is about 91p in the pound. So even a reasonably sophisticated thief who stole a diamond worth £1m would get only £90,000,' says Read. Hendry agrees, but says that, for many criminals, it's still worth it. 'Yes, you lose at least 80 per cent of the value of something the minute you steal it,' he says. 'But you'll often have a buyer lined up who's prepared to pay cash. However much it is, it's still cash you didn't have that morning.'

THE MAIN PRIORITY IS TO GET THE LOOT OUT OF THE COUNTRY AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE

Recovering stolen jewels is almost impossible and depends on how quickly the police act. In the case of the Hatton Garden robbery, the police were able to move fast and found much of the loot. But the more time that passes after a robbery, the less likely you are to track down the stash. From an insurer's point of view, hoping to recover what has been stolen is virtually pointless. 'If you have a Monet, it's unique,' says Read. 'But if you have a pair of diamond earrings, they may be very nice, but they are almost certainly not unique, so they're not easily identifiable

PHOTOGRAPHS: CAMERA PRESS, AP PHOTOS, JOHN FROST NEWSPAPERS, REX FEATURES, ALAMY, SHUTTERSTOCK, PA IMAGES, ISTOCK

unless they have some weird marking. We do spend time trying to recover stolen jewels, but in the knowledge that there's a low return.'

Many stolen jewels will eventually return to the legitimate market, having passed through several sets of hands – and only after some time has elapsed. But handling stolen goods is, of course, an offence, so dealers and auctioneers have to be careful. Numerous Hatton Garden jewellers have window signs saying, 'We buy gold and silver' and 'Immediate cash payment'. But how do they vet what they're purchasing? There's a small queue at the Hatton Garden Buying Centre when I visit on a Tuesday lunchtime. The well-dressed woman in front of me is selling a silver bracelet and haggling over the price. In the end, she settles for £1,520 in cash. But first she must provide ID, in the form of a driving licence or passport. 'I wouldn't buy anything if it's not legitimate,' the saleswoman tells me afterwards.

Other outlets are undoubtedly less scrupulous. The Hatton Garden Safe Deposit Company, scene of the recent robbery, is where many jewellers would store their, or their customers', property. One of the perks it offers is complete discretion – you don't have to declare what you're keeping in your safe deposit box. Indeed, suspicions have arisen over how they can vet whether or not stolen goods are being kept there. And questions have been asked about how a gang could have spent a weekend drilling its way into the vault uninterrupted. Even Mahendra Bavishi, a joint director of the firm, suspects an inside job. 'Now the business is finished,' he told the *Daily Mail*. 'Who will trust their valuables with us?'

Auction houses are the other most likely venue for stolen goods to resurface, as it's easy for vendors to blur their identity. But not the big houses, which have strict policies on vetting goods consigned for sale. So how do they know whether goods brought in are legitimate or not? 'They see it the whole time,' says Robert Read. 'There's a feel to something that comes in that isn't quite right. If the story doesn't fit or the collar doesn't quite match the cuffs, they won't accept it.'

What, then, do you do if you love diamonds but want to hang on to them? 'Don't be ostentatious,' suggests Read. He says airports are typical places where thieves monitor prospective victims, along with anywhere where the victims are away from home. 'Most people can secure their jewellery at home. But, for most thieves, it's easier to target you when you're out of your comfort zone. And if you're going to go out wearing hundreds of thousands of pounds' worth, you need close personal security.' Such is the spell that a diamond can cast that, for some, it's a price worth paying. □

INSIDE JOB

Toffs with very sticky fingers. By David Jenkins

THE MARQUESS

Victor Hervey (1915–1985)

In the Thirties, Victor Hervey sold arms to both sides in the Spanish Civil War, was known as 'Mayfair Playboy Number One' and headed a gang of public school-educated thieves who beat up and robbed a Cartier jeweller – two of them got flogged for that. Hervey got three years for two jewel robberies, made a £50m fortune, became 6th Marquess of Bristol, begat an even more degenerate son, decamped to Monaco, became chancellor of the International Monarchist League and died in 1985, little mourned.

THE MILITARY MAN

Thomas Blood (1618–1680)

'Aim high' was Colonel Blood's motto. The Anglo-Irish soldier donned clergyman's clothing in 1671 to penetrate the Tower of London and win the friendship of the Keeper of the (Crown) Jewels – which, weeks later, Blood and some accomplices stole. One filed the Sceptre in half, another put the Orb down his trousers and Blood hid St Edward's Crown beneath his robes. They cut, ran, dropped the Sceptre and were caught, Blood crying, 'It was a gallant attempt!' Amazingly, Charles II agreed and pardoned him.

THE RASCAL

Peter Scott (1931–2013)

Peter Scott said he had 'an obscene passion for larceny'. The scion of an Irish military family, he was an ace cat burglar of the Sixties and Seventies, stealing a £200,000 necklace from Sophia Loren (who put a curse on him) and many more gems from the likes of Elizabeth Taylor, Maria Callas, Lauren Bacall and even, he claimed, the Queen Mother. He was good – but not so good he didn't get 12 years' jail and end up living on social security of £60 a week.

ONE COOL CAT

Joseph Grizzard (1867–c.1940)

A necklace of 61 flawless, blush-pink pearls – what Napoleon of Crime wouldn't want that? So, in 1913, the dashing Joseph Grizzard purloined them. How? A Hatton Garden dealer, Max Mayer, sent them to a Paris colleague to view, and the colleague sent them back, registered post (those were the days). Mayer opened the package and found 11 lumps of sugar. Grizzard had struck – as, eventually, did the cops, capturing the man who had once hidden a string of diamonds in his soup when police raided his house.

DISHONOURABLE MENTION: THE HEIRESS

Bridget Rose Dugdale (b.1941)

The debutante daughter of a millionaire father, Bridget Rose Dugdale 'lunged to the left' at Oxford, stole paintings worth £82,000 from her parents on behalf of the IRA, dropped bombs in milk churns on a Northern Ireland police station and rounded off her criminal career in 1973 by helping the IRA steal 19 old masters from the County Wicklow home of Sir Alfred Beit, whom the gang pistol-whipped. Sentenced to the slammer for nine years, Dugdale gave birth to her lover's child in Limerick Prison.

Let it grow!

Your hair, your garden, your wardrobe. Everything, really. A celebration of this season's lushest new looks

Styled by SOPHIE GOODWIN

Photographed by DAMON HEATH

ALBERTA FERRETTI
CHIFFON DRESS, £4,950

BOTTEGA VENETA

LACE DRESS, £4,710

VALENTINO

SILK COAT, £2,595

LEATHER & GROSGRAIN SHOES, £375, BY **JIMMY CHOO**

LONGCHAMP
LEATHER &
SUEDE JACKET, £985

BALLY
LEATHER SKIRT, £675

LACE RUFF, £110, BY **ALBERTA FERRETTI**.
GOLD & BRASS CUFFS, £355 & £620, BY **HERVE VAN DER STRAETEN**

DONNA KARAN

TINSELLED-BROCADE COAT, £3,610

CALFSKIN BELT, £675, BY **ROBERTO CAVALLI**

SALVATORE FERRAGAMO

MACRAME DRESS, £2,550;
LEATHER BELT, £465

HERMES

SILK-JACQUARD TOP, £2,020; SILK-JACQUARD SKIRT, £2,470

GOLD & BRASS NECKLACE, £958, BY **HERVE VAN DER STRAETEN**

VERSACE
SILK DRESS,
£1,347

ERMANNO SCERVINO
SEQUIN DRESS, £2,530

BLACK-PLATINUM, BLACK-DIAMOND & STERLING-SILVER RING, £2,325, BY **AZATURE**, AT **DOVER STREET MARKET**

BOSS
COTTON TOP, POA

TOD'S
LEATHER SKIRT, £3,440

CUFF (JUST SEEN), AS BEFORE

FOR STOCKISTS, SEE ADDRESS BOOK. HAIR BY BIANCA TUOVI AT CLM HAIR & MAKE-UP, USING EVO HAIRCARE. MAKE-UP BY ANITA KEELING AT JED ROOT, USING CHANEL A/W 2015 & CHANEL BODY EXCELLENCE. MODEL, ISABEL SCHOLTEN AT THE SOCIETY MANAGEMENT. PRODUCTION, ELLE KORHALILLER. FASHION ASSISTANT, XUXA MILROSE

Photographed by HANA KNIZOVA

SCENE QUEEN

Annabel Brooks is the social linchpin of the all-powerful Chipping Norton set, throwing raucous parties attended by everyone from David Cameron to Jack Nicholson. She talks to Sophia Money-Coutts about her wild teenage years in Provence, hanging with Rupert Everett in Hollywood and her badly behaved bunny

Sometimes the most intriguing and, indeed, powerful people in society are the ones you haven't heard of. Those who provide the glue. You know – the connectors, the linchpins, the calm epicentres of whirling scenes. Every social set has one. Needs one. In Chipping Norton, where we all know that you can't move for Camerons or Clarksons, it is Annabel Brooks. A society phenomenon. A putter-together. A kind of queen.

And to anyone who is part of or, crucially, wants a way into this uniquely influential pocket of England, Brooks is a gatekeeper. Trustworthy. Edgy. The real deal. At 52, the former model turned property person looks a bit like Chrissie Hynde. All dressed down and rocky, she is tall and skinny, with jet-black hair – lots of black, lots of fur, lots of dangly jewellery, suede Isabel Marant boots.

She actually lives a few miles outside the town of Chipping Norton – 'the fashionable side of Chippie,' says one grand neighbour – in a vast, yellow-stone house on the 600-acre Brooks estate, which has been in the family since just after the Second World War. In recent years, the spotlight has shone on ▷

ANNABEL BROOKS WEARS VELVET JACKET, £830, BY ISABEL MARANT ETOILE. DENIM JUMPSUIT, £510, BY 6397

Annabel Brooks at her house near Chipping Norton, with Pusheen the rabbit

Brooks in one of her bedrooms

◁ Annabel's brother Charlie and his wife, Rebekah Brooks – he a horse trainer, she the former editor of *The Sun* and the *News of the World*. 'Rebekah and I refer to each other as the Chipping Norton Upset, but there are only two members of it: me and her,' Charlie joked in a newspaper interview in 2012 when asked about the 'power posse' who live in the area. Their group of friends and their lifestyle were pored over during the subsequent, eight-month phone-hacking trial, at which both he and Rebekah testified on various charges, including conspiring to pervert the course of justice. It finished last June and they walked free, back home to Chippie.

The rest of the Brooks clan, a close bunch, all waited it out there, at home, in a kind of commune – albeit in different houses. 'The drive is a mile long. Charlie and Mum are at the top, then there are some cottages, then [her other brother] Christopher's house and then I'm at the bottom. This house was always on Sky News last year, which I HATED,' says Annabel, standing in her kitchen wearing ripped jeans and drinking her morning vitamins – a glass of Elle Macpherson's Super Elixir, made from a green powder containing greens and maitake mushrooms. She carries sachets with her everywhere in her handbag.

Annabel, the eldest of the three siblings, has the 'big house' on the estate, while Christopher, an artist, Charlie and their mother have pretty but smaller houses. 'My father didn't believe in the primogeniture thing – he didn't believe that Christopher should get it all,' she says. How many bedrooms are there? 'I don't know,' she says. '12 or 14? We can sleep 22.' It's this house that is so central to the Chipping Norton social whirl, largely thanks to the New Year parties thrown by Annabel and her second husband, James Dearden, a writer and director most famous for penning *Fatal Attraction*. The parties started 'around 2008' with 40 people for dinner. 'Then it was more people, and more people again, until it was 350 in a marquee,' Annabel says of the bash, now held alternately by her friends Jeremy Clarkson and his ex-wife, Frances, and Alex James and his wife, Claire. All the grand neighbours come for a racy, raucous, all-night affair.

But Annabel isn't a spoiled socialite who drifts around Oxfordshire having kitchen suppers with all the famous people who live in the county. Rather, she is a businesswoman – focused and charismatic – who looks after a property empire of over 500 houses, matching clients to those who want to rent them as holiday houses. Say you're a Russian oligarch looking to rent a palace outside Rome for the summer. Annabel's your woman. Or you might be a hedgefunder with a house in the Bahamas who wants to let it out because you feel guilty that you're only there two weeks a year. She'll do that too. Her clients are whispered to include Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie, Arpad Busson, Evgeny Lebedev, André Balazs, David Bowie, Prince Rupert Loewenstein... the list is endless.

This bulging address book comes thanks to a life that can be neatly dissected into different phases. Born in 1962, she grew up on the estate in Chipping Norton, where her father was a cattle farmer whose family made their money from Cheshire coal mines but moved south after the Second World War. Annabel was sent to board at Badminton School, which she hated. 'Mum said that Indira Gandhi and Iris Murdoch had gone there,' she says, rolling her eyes. 'So I went to the monstrous place.' By sixth form, she had moved to Queen's Gate in London, which is where, aged 17 and ravishing, she was spotted by Patrick Lichfield and signed by Models 1. So ravishing was she, in fact, that one of her friends tells me that cars would stop on the King's Road and men would get out and propose to her. 'Apparently they did!' says Annabel. 'But I don't remember.' She was broken shortly afterwards, however, when her father – 'my darling, darling father' – suddenly died of pancreatic cancer. It devastated the family, and her mother never remarried.

Annabel was saved by a house, but not the one in Chipping Norton. Instead, it was in the director Tony Richardson's Provençal hamlet, which she first visited when she was 18. Called Le Nid de Duc, it was there in the Seventies that you might drop in and find guests including David Hockney, Jack Nicholson, Judi Dench, John Mortimer and Rudolf Nureyev, plus assorted Richardsons, all sitting down for lunch. 'It was the house that changed my life. I'd finished my A-levels and I was supposed to go to Greece and we stopped off at Jeremy Fry's hamlet in France, and he and Tony Richardson were best friends. So I arrived and the chef came out in an old dress and a wig and I thought, "Wow, this is different!" Jeremy said, "Stay here, don't go to Greece," and he took me down to Tony's, where I was chased around the garden by Roman Polanski and we played Murder in the Dark. I absolutely loved Jeremy and Tony, they became father figures.'

She married Richard Harris's son and they lived in a mansion on Hollywood Boulevard, where they partied with the Brat Pack

As, she adds, did Richard Harris. Aged 22, Annabel was introduced to his son Damian by her 'best friend' Rupert Everett and they quickly married and moved to Hollywood. Her life there centred around another 'amazing house, a mansion' on Hollywood Boulevard bought for them by Richard, and they partied with the young Brat Pack: 'Nic Cage, Eric Stoltz, James Spader, John Malkovich. All these people.' Her tennis partner was Jack Nicholson. Having taken a few acting classes, Annabel landed her first role in a 1987 film

PHOTOGRAPHS: GETTY IMAGES, EAMONN J McCABE, ALAN DAVIDSON, DAFYDD JONES. ANNABEL WEARS JEANS, £190, BY J BRAND. SILK SHIRT, £225, BY EQUIPMENT. NECKLACE, £80; SUEDE MOCCASINS, £360, BOTH BY ISABEL MARANT. SECOND NECKLACE & EARRINGS, ANNABEL'S OWN. FOR STOCKISTS, SEE ADDRESS BOOK. HAIR BY ALEX KING. MAKE-UP BY MARILYN HUMPHREYS. STYLED BY SOPHIE GOODWIN

called *Nightflyers*, after Bianca Jagger was let go from the production. 'But it was such a bad film, running around in space with John Standing, that I took it off my CV.' There followed small roles in other films, including Evelyn Waugh's *A Handful of Dust* and the thriller *Paris by Night*, directed by David Hare. Then came Ella, the couple's daughter, born in 1989, by which point, however, Annabel and Damian's marriage was falling apart. 'We really love each other – we just got married too young.'

So it was back to England for Annabel and Ella, although her pal Sabrina Guinness had introduced her to James Dearden before she left LA. Was it quite quick, this new relationship? 'It was... messy,' she says. 'Now Damian and James are best friends. Damian stays here all the time – he comes for Christmas, he came for the summer. It's traumatic, though, when you have a baby. It's scary enough being in Hollywood, but if I hadn't had this farm, I think I probably would have...' she trails off. 'You know, most girls go to Hollywood with a one-way bus ticket, they wait tables, and they've got to make it. I could always opt out.' Back to this nice Chipping Norton house?

'Yes!' she laughs.

She married James and had two more children, Callum, now 20 and working in the music industry in New York, and Lara, now 18, who's just left City of London School and been signed up by Models 1 too. More children meant the end of acting. 'I did a film about Francis Bacon and a couple of TV series... but I was never going to put acting first, above love or children.' Instead, she decided that she would make the house pay its way by letting it out: 'People want parties and to get out of London, and there are a lot of people aged 40 who haven't bought country houses.'

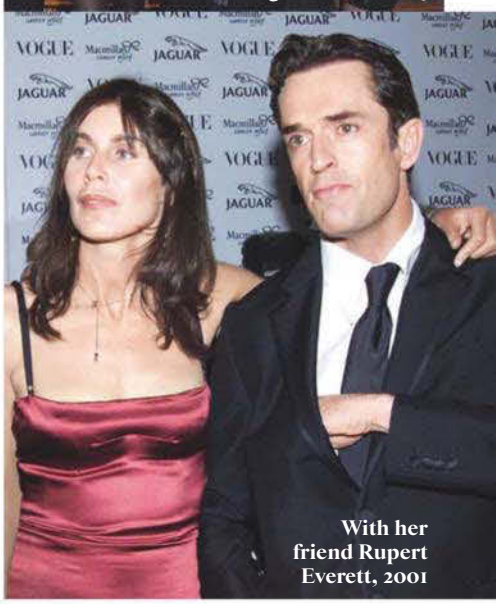
It's the perfect party house: huge, airy kitchen, immaculate double bedrooms (almost all with giant bathrooms attached), several sitting rooms, a dining room that can seat 24, a cinema room, a playroom that is now largely used by Charlie and Rebekah's daughter, Scarlett ('divine, divine child,' says Annabel), a vast garden and eye-catching art everywhere. In her bedroom, there's a giant gunnera leaf framed in Perspex; outside are three framed pop-art hearts from a Brooklyn gallery; black-and-white Henri Cartier-Bresson photographs hang in another bathroom.

There is also a floppy-eared rabbit called Pusheen in the courtyard outside the kitchen, who belongs to Lara. 'But he got into the house once and set off the bidet upstairs, which caused a flood.' James, whose famous scene in *Fatal Attraction* meant the term 'bunny boiler' was added to the OED, isn't terribly fond of this rabbit either. 'He's always saying, "It's going in the pot! It's going in the pot!"'

Letting the Chipping Norton house – for £9,000–£14,000 a week, depending on the time of year – made Annabel think about other people's houses. And so in 2012, together with her friend Gael Boglione (who, with her husband, Francesco, owns Petersham Nurseries in Richmond), they launched Petersham Properties. On their books were Asthall Manor, the Mitfords' old house in the Cotswolds, nearby Aynhoe Park, Broughton Hall in Yorkshire and Mount Stuart in Scotland, as well as clapboard houses in the Caribbean, villas in Italy and 50-people haciendas in Mexico. In a nutshell, it's the poshest lettings agency you can imagine. Annabel tells one story about going to Majorca to scout out new houses. 'I called a friend when I was there and I said, "I hear Michael Douglas has a house here," and my friend said, "No, that's not enough notice for this trip." But no isn't in my vocabulary and anyway, I told them my husband wrote *Fatal Attraction*, so a day later I'm up at Michael Douglas's drinking champagne on the balcony.' She now looks after that property too, if you're in the market for a trip to Deia.

This year, Petersham Properties has morphed into Avenue Property, under Annabel's sole control (with help from her daughter Ella, who works for her), with Gael concentrating on Petersham Nurseries. They're still firm friends, Annabel says; they just wanted to focus on different aspects of the business. She takes at least three trips a month to inspect new properties and see if they're up to scratch – Costa Rica is on her hit list, as are Hydra in Greece and Cuba, so expect Fidel Castro's house to appear on her website any minute now. Otherwise, you'll find her at home happily pottering in her kitchen, on the phone to foreign billionaires and planning parties while drinking her green juice, queen of all she surveys. □

With her husband James Dearden and, *from left*, her stepson Rory Dearden, her daughter Ella Harris and her and James's daughter Lara, 2014



With her friend Rupert Everett, 2001

***Clockwise, from right*, at a Saatchi Gallery opening, 1997; in *Vanity Fair* with her first husband, Damian Harris, 1989; with her brother Charlie, 2009**

BURBERRY PRORSUM

FRONT, MIRROR-EMBELLISHED SILK DRESS, £9,000; COTTON WAISTCOAT, £650; SUEDE BOOTS, £695. *BEHIND*, EMBELLISHED SILK DRESS, £9,000; SUEDE BOOTS, AS ABOVE

MISS SHAPES

The new collections, as you've never seen them before...

GUCCI

WOOL-JACQUARD COAT, £3,260; SILK & SATIN-GEORGETTE DRESS WITH SCARF, £1,150; LUREX DRESS, £3,260; WOOL HAT, £160; GLASSES, £189; LEATHER SLIPPERS, £650

Styled by DEEP KAILEY

Photographed by REBEKKA EHLERS

GIORGIO ARMANI

FRONT, EMBROIDERED TULLE DRESS WITH VELVET TRIM, £17,415; SUEDE & PATENT BOOTS, £525; ONYX & RESIN EARRINGS (JUST SEEN), £1,490. *BEHIND*, SEQUIN JACKET (WORN BACK TO FRONT), £17,415; SILK-CADY SKIRT WITH INTEGRATED TROUSERS, £1,745

MICHAEL KORS COLLECTION

LEFT, TWEED & CASHMERE TUNIC, £2,815; TWEED & CASHMERE SKIRT, £1,090; LEATHER SLIP-ONS, £590. *RIGHT*, WOOL JACKET, £1,090; TIPPET, £1,045; WOOL SKIRT, £680; LEATHER BELT, £260; LEATHER PUMPS, £675

MIU MIU

FRONT, POPLIN SHIRT, £690; WOOL SKIRT, £1,370; PYTHON & PATENT SHOES, £925. *BEHIND*, PYTHON BAG, £2,250; SILK & WOOL COAT, £2,845; GLITTER & PATENT SHOES, £525

PRADA

TOP, JERSEY COAT, £1,880; CASHMERE T-SHIRT, £570; SILK SHIRT, £430; PLEXIGLASS & CRYSTAL BROOCH, £505; NAPPA GLOVES, £405; NAPPA BOOTS, £925. *BOTTOM*, TWEED DRESS, £2,140; BRUSHED-LEATHER SHOES, £610

DOLCE & GABBANA

LEFT, MACRAME-LACE DRESS WITH SWAROVSKI-CRYSTAL BUTTONS; LEATHER HEELS; EMBELLISHED LEATHER HEADPHONES, ALL POA. *RIGHT*, MACRAME-LACE DRESS WITH SWAROVSKI-CRYSTAL BUTTONS; VELVET HEELS; EMBELLISHED LEATHER HEADPHONES, ALL POA

RALPH LAUREN COLLECTION

LEFT, SHEARLING COAT, £8,450; WOOL JACKET, £2,950; CASHMERE TURTLENECK JUMPER; £1,150; WOOL TROUSERS, £1,190; SUEDE BOOTS, £850. *RIGHT*, HAT, £1,950; WOOL JACKET, £2,150; TIPPET, £2,950; WOOL WAISTCOAT, £950; SILK BLOUSE, £1,450; WOOL TROUSERS, £890; LEATHER HEELS, £675

LOUIS VUITTON

TOP, WOOL COAT, £4,040; LEATHER BOOTS, £1,040. *BOTTOM*, SUNGLASSES, £450; SILK DRESS, £3,100; LEATHER BOOTS, £780

DIOR

FRONT, WOOL DRESS, £2,700; PATENT BOOTS, £1,600; *BEHIND*, LEATHER BAG, £4,300; CASHMERE COAT, £5,400; KNITTED JACQUARD SKIRT (JUST SEEN), £650; PATENT BOOTS, £1,100

FENDI

LEFT, SHEARLING & LEATHER GILET, £4,380; SILK & LEATHER SKIRT, £1,960. *RIGHT*, SILK COAT, £2,860; SILK DRESS, £2,500; SUNGLASSES, £310

CHANEL

LEFT, TWEED COAT, £2,290; CASHMERE DRESS, £6,700; SUEDE SLINGBACKS, £440. *RIGHT*, TWEED JACKET, £15,650; TWEED SKIRT, £910; SLINGBACKS, AS ABOVE

FOR STOCKISTS, SEE ADDRESS BOOK. HAIR BY LOUIS GHEWY AT THE BOOK AGENCY, USING BUMBLE AND BUMBLE. MAKE-UP BY KARINA CONSTANTINE AT CLM HAIR & MAKE-UP, USING GIVENCHY. MODELS, CLAIRE DE REGGE AT SUPA MODEL MANAGEMENT & JENNA ROBERTS AT SELECT MODEL MANAGEMENT. PRODUCTION, ELLE KORHALILLER. FASHION ASSISTANT, JESSICA RADCLIFFE-BROWN

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TATLER HOME

Edited by GERRI GALLAGHER

Photographed by JAMES MERRELL

ALIKI CURRIMJEE IN THE LIBRARY AT FONMON CASTLE

QUEEN OF THE CASTLE

What? A girl in charge of a fort? Hell, yes. Meet Aliki Currimjee, who has recently taken charge of her ancestral seat. There are turrets and pikes, and the soft furnishings aren't bad either. By Sophia Money-Coutts

ALIKI CURRIMJEE WEARS DRESS, £350, BY PAUL SMITH; SUEDE SHOES, £450, BY JIMMY CHOO

CLOCKWISE, FROM LEFT, THE GEORGIAN ROCOCO PLASTERWORK & 'WOBURN ORANGE' WALLS OF THE HALL; ALIKI AND HER HUSBAND, RIAZ CURRIMJEE, AT A FAMILY BIRTHDAY PARTY; THE SMALL WALLED GARDEN; THE MAURITIAN & WELSH FLAGS FLY ABOVE THE BATTLEMENTS

Aliki Currimjee doesn't immediately strike you as a poster girl for any sort of feminist movement. She's the daughter of a baronet. She went to St Mary's Calne and wears tailored silk shirts. And she grew up in a Welsh castle called Fonmon, in Barry Island, just south of Cardiff. But 18 months ago she inherited the castle, plus 800 damp acres of the surrounding countryside, despite being – shock horror – a woman! And so began her campaign to prove to the fustier elements of the British aristocracy that women are perfectly capable of running estates. 'Whether you're a man or a woman means absolutely nothing these days,' she says. 'I'm not a militant feminist, but it should NOT count against you if you're a girl.'

The eldest of two daughters, Aliki, 38, always knew she would inherit the estate from her father, Sir Brooke Boothby, the 15th baronet, who handed over control in 2013 and moved into a house a few miles away. 'We were sitting there eating cheese and drinking port at Christmas, and suddenly Dad disappears and comes back with the main key from the front door in a gold dish. And he presented it to me and said, "Aliki, this is now your heritage." And there were tears. It was all very exciting.'

Parts of this Norman fortress have existed since about 1200, when it was built to ward off any warmongering raiders. The estate has been owned by just two families – first by the St Johns, who built it and then, in the 17th century, flogged it to Colonel Philip Jones (a Welsh military stooge of Oliver Cromwell's), from whom the Boothby family are descended. So important was Jones that he was charged with organising Cromwell's funeral in 1658. A copy of a merchant's bill for the occasion sits on display in the castle's entrance hall. Apparently, the event cost £1,573 and 11 shillings, which covered, among other things, 'velvets, taffetas, gold tissue and serge'. Not so puritanical, then.

Although the outside of the castle still looks pretty medieval – battlements, a tower, thick stone walls draped in ivy – its innards are somewhat different.

'My parents were so fed up with getting orange paint on their clothes that they painted the last few panels in the nude'

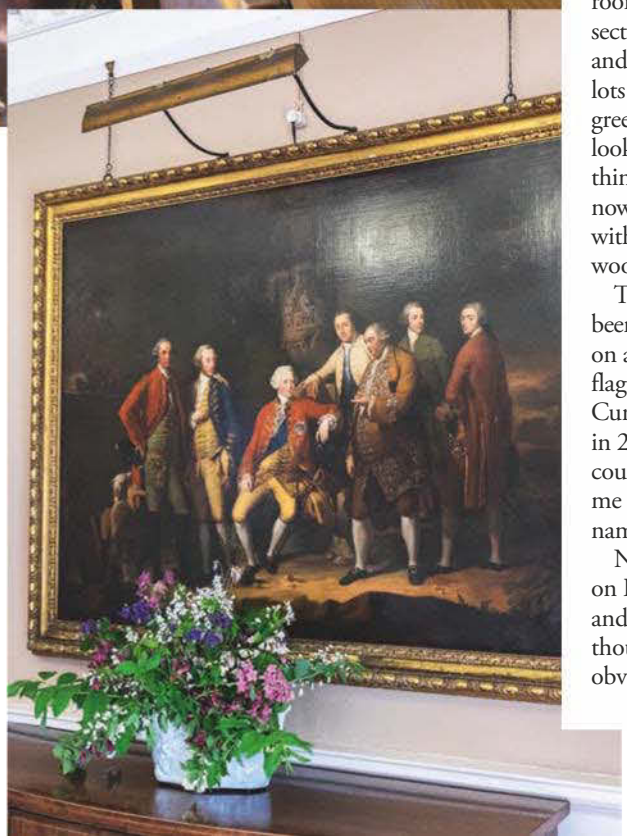
Tall windows throw light into the eight public rooms, which are shown on afternoon tours of the castle. These were largely created by one of Aliki's Georgian ancestors, a raffish chap called Robert. 'He was quite a bon viveur, and he didn't want to live in a grizzly Norman fort – he wanted a gentleman's residence. So he opened it all up, made it much more gracious and comfortable, and created the library.'

How did he have the cash? 'He married a Welsh heiress. And then he spent all her money redecorating.' He also had a portrait of himself painted by Sir Joshua Reynolds, which now hangs in one of the two main drawing rooms – all rococo ceilings and gilt mirrors.

These days, the castle also boasts two main dining rooms, one of which is lined with shelves and shelves of old pewter plates and silver salvers stamped with the family crest – a soldier's mailed fist clutching a spear ▷

TOP, THE LIBRARY, COMPLETED IN 1762. *ABOVE*, TWO BRASS CLOCKWORK SPITS, A 19TH-CENTURY COPPER JUG & AN 18TH-CENTURY BRASS LADLE IN THE OLD KITCHEN. *LEFT*, A GEORGE III WORK TABLE IN AN ANTECHAMBER

LEFT, RIAZ & ALIKI WITH THEIR DAUGHTER, AIAN, IN THE OLD KITCHEN, WHICH DATES FROM 1650. *RIGHT*, A RESTORED 19TH-CENTURY ROCKING HORSE ON THE SECOND-FLOOR LANDING



BELOW LEFT, THE BOOTHBY FAMILY CREST HALLMARKED ON A PEWTER BOWL. *BELOW*, A RICHARD BROMPTON PAINTING, C. 1765

◁ dripping with blood to denote Colonel Jones's successes against Royalist forces during the Civil War. So far, so traditional.

Not so, however, when it comes to the main hall, which is painted a vibrant orange – a nod to the decor at Woburn Abbey and to the Duke of Bedford's family, from which Aliki's mother, Georgiana, is descended. 'It took 17 coats of paint to achieve the right shade,' says Aliki. 'In the end, my parents were so fed up with getting orange on their clothes that they painted the last few panels in the nude. Well, it was the Seventies.'

When Aliki took over, she modernised the 20 or so rooms of her own living quarters, located in a private section of the castle. 'My parents redecorated in 1976, and it hadn't been touched since,' she says. 'There was lots of lovely brown Formica. And bathrooms in pea green and avocado. But our children will probably look at us and say, "White bathrooms? What were you thinking? And what's all this Elephant's Breath?"' She now has a cream kitchen and an adjacent sitting room with a beige sofa and armchairs covered with tartan wool from a shop in nearby Cowbridge.

The other, more recent addition to the castle has been a second flagpole. Now fluttering over the castle on a breezy day are a Welsh flag and a stripy Mauritian flag, the latter in honour of Aliki's husband, Riaz Currimjee, a private-equity financier whom she married in 2010 despite an unpromising beginning when the couple first met at a dinner party in London. 'He told me that if we ever got married, I'd have to change my name, because Aliki means "c**t" in Creole.'

Not long after, on their first official date, at Automat on Dover Street, Aliki was nervous. 'So I kept gabbling and going to the loo because of my nerves, and Riaz thought, "Oh, what a pity – she's a nice girl but she obviously has this awful coke habit!"'

ALIKI WEARS DRESS, £245, BY MAXMARA. JEWELLERY, HER OWN. AIAN CURRIMJEE WEARS COTTON TUNIC, £113; COTTON TROUSERS, £66, BOTH BY BONPOINT. RIAZ CURRIMJEE WEARS HIS OWN CLOTHES. FOR STOCKISTS, SEE ADDRESS BOOK. HAIR & MAKE-UP BY NEUSA NEVES AT TERRI MANDUCA, USING YSL BEAUTE AND KIEHL'S. STYLED BY CHARLIE BYRNE

A VICTORIAN CANE & MAHOGANY CRADLE ON THE FIRST-FLOOR LANDING. *RIGHT*, A 15TH-CENTURY BOOK OF HOURS & A COPY OF *THE BUTTERFLY BOOK* (1828), BY CHARLES BOOTHBY. *BOTTOM*, AN OLD WATER TOWER IN THE CASTLE GROUNDS

Happily, they now have a nine-month-old daughter called Aian and split their time between Fonmon, a flat in Bayswater and trips to Mauritius three times a year to see Riaz's family. Aliki studied law at Exeter and then went into magazine publishing, but it's the castle that absorbs most of her energy now. 'We've spent half a million, and we need another £2.5m. It's the roof, it's always the roof!' says Aliki. 'There are two sets of roof beams – the old one, from when the castle was built, and the new one. The new one is merely Georgian and the wood is crumbling, but to do major roof repair, you have to close to the public and that's loss of income. People think we live in luxury, but we don't. We lead a hand-to-mouth existence.'

Other things on Aliki and Riaz's to-do list include furniture restoration, the cleaning of various paintings and the conversion of a stable block so they can throw weddings there instead of inside the house, as they do now. 'The problem is wear and tear from weddings – at Christmas, someone from one party nicked the baby Jesus from our family crib. I think it's *terribly* bad karma to steal baby Jesus.'

'We've spent half a million and we need another £2.5m. It's the roof, it's always the roof'

There's just one final issue – although Aliki has the actual keys to the castle, she won't inherit the family title. 'The castle and the title are separate, so I get all the responsibility of the estate, but the title goes to my father's cousin George, who's only got three daughters. So then it'll go sideways again and it ends up in Australia with our cousin Bruce, who's a really nice guy, but we don't know him very well.' 'Prince George got rid of the problem, sadly,' she adds, referring to the law of primogeniture, which still dictates that most British estates and titles are handed down to the eldest son – a bill to change the situation was shelved when the prince was born. 'It sounds awful, but I sort of wish Charlotte had come first, because it would have pushed the issue.'

Baby steps, it seems, when it comes to feminism and the British aristocracy. But inroads are being made in this patch of South Wales. ☐

Fonmon Castle (fonmoncastle.com) is open to the public from April until the end of September.

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TATLER
BEAUTY
Edited by FRANCESCA WHITE

TIME TO... MAKE WOMEN FANCY YOU*

Men: did you know that while humans can tell the difference between some 10,000 different odours, women – research suggests – possess 43 per cent more olfactory cells (the things that we use to smell) than you do? These are particularly useful when it comes to determining whether we find your scent, and you, attractive.

Here's another fact: the majority of women find homelike fragrances – fresh linen, lemon, cut flowers – the most pleasing smells. (Yes, sweat and coffee and leather can be sexy, but let's save that for later.) The first whiff needs to be something bright and clean: full of the promise of crisply ironed shirts and just-washed hair.

So, if you're a man and you're reading this, you could give Frédéric Malle's Cologne Indélébile, £155 for 100ml, a go. On first sniff, it's all green and bergamot-like, but wait – there's musk (three of them, in fact) hiding beneath. So it might start out polite and proper, but it soon becomes rather raunchy. Or you could try Dior's classic Eau Sauvage, recently relaunched as a cologne, from £49.50 for 50ml. The first note that hits you is a new, peppy kick of mandarin that veers off into something aniseed-like and peppery. If that doesn't hook us, the hedione will: a chemical said to trigger the pheromone receptor VN1R – responsible for activating sex hormones in women – that has been used in the scent since it was launched in 1966. Because what you want is access to a woman's unrestrained instinct. It's called Sauvage for a reason, guys. ***FW***

*EVEN MORE THAN THEY ALREADY DO, OBVIOUSLY. ILLUSTRATION: RENE GRUAU FOR CHRISTIAN DIOR PARFUMS © SARL RENE GRUAU

HAS ANYONE SEEN MY LIBIDO?

Steeples, stiffies, boners... no, this isn't a piece about Sloane nicknames, it's a piece about erections. So if you are struggling with yours, read on – there are hard times ahead, promises Robert Crampton

OK, the typical man's thoughts on sex in 1,000 words, that's my brief. Big subject, big ask – but I reckon I'm up to the job. Typical male attitude, right? And if I were to tell you that the reading speed of an averagely intelligent, averagely literate human being is about 250 words per minute, and that therefore 1,000 words tend to be done and dusted in around four minutes, I'm sure you will agree – given the subject in hand – that we're looking at an apposite length of time. Erring on the generous side, even.

Whatever, whenever, it proves my point: blokes can dispense with most matters, wide-ranging disquisitions on the act of love included, in shockingly (possibly frustratingly) short order. So let's crack on.

Allow me to set out the stereotypes. Correct me if I'm wrong – but, at 51, having been around the block a time or two, I don't think I am – the received wisdom holds that (barring grievous injury or a particularly gripping sporting event on TV) we men basically want to have sex all the time. Any time. Not, I hasten to add (perish the thought), with anything in a skirt... and yet the record shows we aren't that fussy either.

In short, the conventional notion is that from the moment we reach potency, at roughly 13 years of age, to the moment we draw our last breath, we chaps are totally and indiscriminately up for it. Women, on the other hand – or so the orthodoxy goes – are more discerning. Sometimes they're in the mood, sometimes (rather too frequently, from the male perspective) they're not. Female arousal is certainly a complicated business. Greater precision on my part is not available, my research being stalled as it is by the – entirely happy, I hasten to add – circumstance of having been spoken for by the same lady since I was 25 years old.

I became a father and my wife's libido duly declined. For a decade. But so did mine

That said, I can state that female receptiveness to sexual congress is a finely tuned concern. Numerous factors come into play. A peculiar chemical congruence of all of them, or most of them, or – if the bloke is a raven-haired, blue-eyed Irish or Italian fella, or any sort of musician – not many of them, is needed to seal the deal. A potential partner's behaviour, manners, hygiene, obedience, attentiveness, modesty, confidence and – not irrelevantly but even so some way down the list – physical appearance must be judged. And then, obviously and most importantly, suitably aligned with the perceived success of her latest visit to the hairdresser.

Is that a fair summation? A fair summation of the orthodoxy, at any rate. The reality is rather more complicated. How so? Because while lust is undeniably a hugely powerful motivation for men (and women), as you proceed through life other stuff intervenes. Of which stuff professional ambition, having children and a third miscellaneous category perhaps best labelled 'shit happens' are the most significant.

Yes, men want to have sex. A lot of sex. Of course we do. But we also want material comfort, property, respect, security, a measure of creative fulfilment. As do women. And like women, we are willing, in my experience, to sacrifice sexual adventure while we pursue these other goals. Thus, contrary to popular belief, in our late 20s, 30s and early 40s, striving for wealth, success and reputation as we are, sex matters rather less to us than it does at an earlier or later age. Also – ▷

PHOTOGRAPH: GETTY IMAGES

◁ this should not be overlooked – when we're 20, whatever we may lack in expertise, we can compensate for with energy and enthusiasm. And at 50, vice-versa. In my adolescence, I thought about sex all the time, and now, in middle age, career aspirations largely achieved (or their non-achievement reconciled), I do again. In between, not so much. I've seen a lot of surveys recently to the effect that couples in their 50s – and 60s and 70s, yay, bring it on – have more sex, more enjoyably, than couples in their 20s and 30s.

I can relate – I bitterly regret it. That middle, work-oriented period – 25 to 45 – for me, as for most people, coincided with having children. I became a father at 32, and again at 34. And yes, in nature's way, my wife's libido duly declined. For about a decade. But so did mine. You're tired, you're busy, you've done your reproductive duty – recreational sex tends to get shunted off the agenda, along with going to the cinema, keeping up with contemporary music and hitting the gym. Fact is, I often simply didn't feel like it. I can't recall my wife thinking that was a problem. If anything, she was grateful.

Then, when you are in your mid-40s, financially (one trusts) secure, and with your sexual aspirations beginning to revive, life has a habit of smacking you in the face. Parents ail and die. Teenage kids act up. Your own vitality declines. Longstanding weaknesses take their toll. Character flaws come home to roost. No one said it would be easy.

As you proceed through life other stuff intervenes, including a category best labelled 'shit happens'

And yet, such pessimism put to one side, with luck and good judgement, you overcome these obstacles. And when you do, I'm here to tell you that the yawning chasm that is popularly supposed to exist between the female and male attitudes to sex is actually much narrower now, in 2015, than at any time previously. Good news, then.

For virtually the whole of human history, the full glory of female sexuality has been either compromised by an absence of reliable contraception or suppressed by prevailing ideology, usually religious in origin. For many women in the world, this remains the case. In the developed West, however, for the past half-century or so – imperfectly perhaps, with many hurdles still to surmount – something close to a genuine expression of female sexuality has been able to emerge. And hey, it turns out it isn't that different to male sexuality.

Crudely put, while we worry about it, so do they. And equally, while we want it, so do they. Together, the two of us can generally work things out. □

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Skin slackening? Loss of density? Age spots? Time changes skin… New Super Restorative Remodelling Serum harnesses the power of narrow-leaf plantain and organic harungana extracts to target visible signs of ageing. Cheekbones are more defined, deep wrinkles are reduced and skin is visibly lifted. Skin regains its youthful-looking luminosity. Clarins, No.1 in UK Premium skin care*.

85% of women, after one month, are convinced of its effectiveness**.

*Source: The NPD Group value sales Jan-Dec 2014. **Consumer test conducted in the UK on 377 women.

Official online store :
www.clarins.com

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AT THE HOTEL

What **ESPA Modern Manscaping**

The lowdown If you happen to be male, and you happen to have half a day to kill, this epic, five-hour stint is a rather nice way to do it. You're looking at a game of two halves: plenty of time for crashing around the cavernous, marble-everything ESPA Life spa at the Corinthia (check out the sauna 'amphitheatre' and the heated fireside loungers), having your shoulders rubbed, your face massaged and your nail beds scrubbed. Then you're hauled into the slick Daniel Galvin salon for a traditional cut and wet shave.

Our verdict OK, so it's not butch, but it is flipping spoiling. You will be unrecognisable when you emerge, blinking, back into the real world.

Details From £395. At ESPA Life at the Corinthia, Whitehall Place, W1 (espalifeatcorinthia.com; 020 7321 3050).

AT HOME

What **Priv**

The lowdown *This* is how to multi-task. Book – via the easy-as Priv app – as many jobs as you need doing: from a properly strong, bone-crunching sports massage to a snippy short-back-and-sides or a thorough medical pedicure (not as scary as it sounds), even a personal training session. Then ensconce yourself comfortably in your sitting room/bedroom/whichever room the kids aren't in and remain there until each of Priv's wonderfully professional and smartly turned-out therapists has turned up and completed the task at hand.

Our verdict Don't expect fluffy towels and candles and whalesong – that's not the point. Speed and efficiency are, however: they'll be out of your hair before you know it. And you'll look all the better for it.

Details From £18. Book treatments via the app (gopriv.com).

Treatments
ALPHA MALE

Beautifying for boys

AT WORK

What **Strop & Blade barbers**

PICK ME!

The lowdown Down a little side street in east London sits the wonderful Hatch – a converted paper mill that's part workspace, part café, part shop, part bar and home to Strop & Blade barbers. So if the time comes when you're sitting at your rented desk space (£200 per month) and feel like you need a trim, then you needn't go further than 10 yards. Ben the barber offers you a cold beer as soon as you sit down, then talks you through your grooming habits before giving you a full wash and scissor cut.

Our verdict Neat and tidy in no time. They'll even give you local recommendations for supper that evening, nice chaps that they are.

Details From £10. At Hatch, Unit G2, Mackintosh Lane, Homerton, E9 (hatch-homerton.co.uk; 020 8533 5007).

AT THE SHOPS

What **Privet**

The lowdown This 'gender-neutral' (no wait, come back!) space – a stone's throw from Portobello Road – is completely non-threatening to males. Take the four treatment rooms, cast in lovely, low lighting, that are like brilliantly reconstructed stage sets of an old-timey log cabin, a potting shed, a writer's studio and (aimed at the boys) a tool shed. The men's menu is unflinchingly results-driven too: hair removal via a fancy-pants Soprano Ice Laser, a thorough 'Dandy in a Dash' manicure/pedicure and subtle spray-tanning (for the brave). Otherwise, try their showstopper of an anti-ageing facial: steam, exfoliation and extractions, topped off with a tingling glycolic peel, all done with man-skin-friendly Murad products.

Our verdict Soothing and energising in equal measure. And the facial afterglow gets even glowier over the next few days.

Details Intensive Glycolic Wrinkle Peel, £75 for 60 minutes. At 214 Kensington Park Road, W11 (privetbody.co.uk; 020 7221 5674).

AT THE AIRPORT

What **Elemis Deep Clean Aviator Facial**

The lowdown This 15-minute no-messing-about facial should be your first port of call before you take off – especially if this is the sixth time you've flown from Heathrow this month. The Elemis spa is super-slick, with amazing massage chairs that pummel you from top to bottom (yes, all the way down to your feet) as the therapist gets to work. First she'll rub lavender oil into your palms (so relaxing that it'll practically knock you out), before thrashing out a snappy cleanse-moisturise-and-massage combo that genuinely makes you look more awake.

Our verdict Come out feeling lighter, brighter and so very much cleaner.

Details Free for BA first-class passengers and Gold Members. At Elemis Travel Spa, Terminals Five and Three, Heathrow Airport (elemis.com; 0117 316 1888).

PHOTOGRAPH: GETTY IMAGES

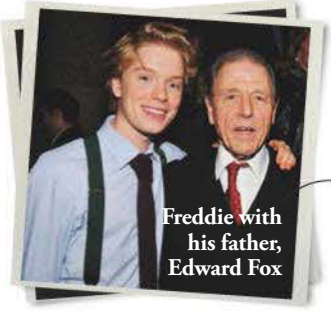
My close-up Freddie Fox

The sharp-suited scion of the acting dynasty on Glasto, greens and Guerlain. By Katie Thomas

My last meal on earth would be my mother's roast chicken and apple crumble.

I'm not really an aftershave man. But I have been known to wear Guerlain Vetiver.

I love Italy, especially the Tuscan countryside. I grew up going there with my godfather, Sir John Mortimer.



Freddie with his father, Edward Fox

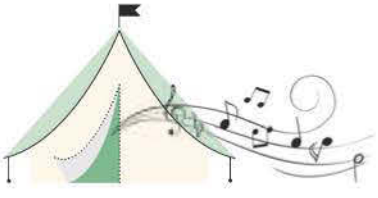
I love to wear a suit. My father's got wonderful taste and has handed down at least an eighth of his wardrobe. I also have a couple of Huntsman suits that I wear on special occasions.

My sister Emilia once told me the best way to keep your skin clean is to put a hot flannel over your face every evening, so that's what I do.

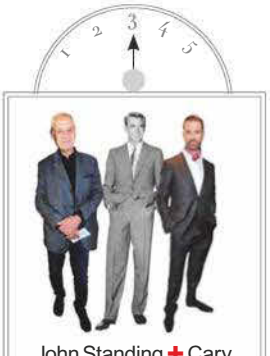
MY GO-TO HANGOVER CURE IS

Get some greens ...a couple of eggs ...mix them up in a Nutribullet.

I always have smoked mackerel in my fridge



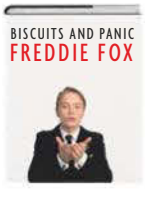
I went to Glastonbury for the first time last year and it is the best place on earth – 250,000 people giving out good vibes at exactly the same time. Amazing!



John Standing + Cary Grant + Rupert Everett = IDEAL PEOPLE TO BE STUCK IN A LIFT WITH

My fantasy autobiography

The story of my life would be called *Biscuits and Panic*.



Freddie Fox appears in Romeo and Juliet at the Crucible in Sheffield, 17 September–17 October.

GUNG-HO GETAWAYS

PURIST VS TOURIST

CHIVA-SOM, HUA HIN, THAILAND

The Fitness Challenger is just the ticket for a male midlife crisis. First up, an itinerary fit for Brad Pitt pre-*Fight Club*, with personal training, Gyrotonic and acupuncture a-go-go. Then punch your way through Thai boxing and cram in some serious bike rides or mega mountain-trekking. Nosh weighs in at a mere 500 calories – steak (man food) and chickpea curry (spa man food). Plus deep-tissue massages so strong *they'll* sort the men from the boys.

Healing Holidays (healingholidays.co.uk) offers seven nights at Chiva-Som from £3,695 a person (based on two sharing), including British Airways flights, transfers, full board, activities and consultations.

ANANTARA QASR AL SARAB, UAE

Get your leg over at this Arabian desert fort by way of a 'fat bike' – which tears around the places where jeeps and camels struggle – with soft tyres five inches wide for gripping the sand, so you can cover six miles of desert in under two hours. A local guide is provided, but you need gym kit, fresh legs and determination. Back at base, downtime is a 90-minute signature massage to soothe aching quads. Come home with a tip-top tan and enviably toned thighs.

Western & Oriental (westernoriental.com) offers three nights B&B at Qasr Al Sarab in August from £649 a person (based on two sharing), including flights from Heathrow to Abu Dhabi. Dune biking from £26.

PHOTOGRAPHS: GETTY IMAGES, ALAN DAVIDSON, ALAMY, REX FEATURES, SHUTTERSTOCK, CORBIS. VETIVER EAU DE TOILETTE, FROM £42 FOR 50ML, BY GUERLAIN. PURIST VS TOURIST BY SUZANNE DUCKETT

Dr Rakus's new SPF45 cream was gifted at a party which was hosted by Storm at the House of Vans in June

Dr Rakus and her team at a Storm event in June

PICTURE PERFECT

As one of the best anti-ageing teams in town, its no wonder Dr Galyna, Mr Golchin and Dr Rakus are all smiles. What are their newest wonder-working secrets?

What do you get when you combine the delicate touch of the London Lip Queen (aka Dr Rakus) with the CoolSculpting prowess of Dr Galyna and the bulge-blitzing might of Mr Golchin? A dream team, that's what. Three superheroes of cosmetic surgery have joined forces to tackle the visible signs of ageing. Brought together in her Knightsbridge clinic by Dr Rakus – a specialist in cosmetic surgery for more than 20 years – this team delivers unparalleled experience, expertise and know-how. Here's the latest three on the treatment menu; from fat busting diet plans to wrinkle diminishing facelifts, prepare for your best self yet.

PROLON PROGRAMME

If you've tried (and failed) to introduce intermittent fasting to your lifestyle, perhaps its time to turn to the experts. Prolon is the new anti-ageing and weight-management nutrition-solution. Bit of a mouthful maybe (couldn't resist the pun), but this is the secret weapon for healthy living. A five-day provision of Prolon plant-based meal replacements, repeated every month, improves brain function, boosts cell renewal and keeps waistlines trim. And its surprisingly tasty. Combine the regime with CoolSculpting for optimum results. Dr Rakus's is the first clinic outside the US to offer patients Prolon. She recently visited the clinic of Dr Grant Stevens – renowned CoolSculpting master in Los Angeles – to glean his latest fat-freezing techniques for even more dramatic results. Line up, line up!

TOTAL THREAD LIFT

Award-winning dermatology consultant, Dr Maria Gonzalez, is now championing this treatment at Dr Rakus's. Tone and plump the face in one swoop. Harnessing the power of Silhouette Soft technology (biodegradable sutures which do not need to be removed) this treatment combines the benefit of thread lifts and fillers in one. How nifty! Sutures are placed beneath the dermis to lift skin and underlying muscle. Polylactic acid (the main component of the sutures) penetrates deep into the skin, combatting saggy areas and returning bounce. Think of it as giving yourself some extra scaffolding. The face appears immediately lifted for a look that is both beautiful and discreet. Regeneration continues months after the treatment – the face appears smoother and more contoured with youthful volume. Yes please.

'The London Lip Queen is launching a new AXO lip product from Skinceuticals to be combined with her lip injections'

SUPER LIQUID FACELIFT

What everyone wants is a subtle facelift. Now, Sharon Stone has partnered with Galderma – the brains behind Restylane – to show just how natural results can be. You can get that Hollywood look at Dr Rakus's clinic – she has been awarded the Restylane Lifetime Achievement Award. Combining Ulthera, an ultrasound skin-tightening treatment, with Restylane Skinboosters, this facelift is as super as its name suggests. You'll look glowing, radiant and red-carpet ready. Well, if it's good enough for Ms Stone...

Visit drritarakus.com or call 020 7460 7324. Dr Rakus is based at 34 Hans Road (opposite Harrods), Knightsbridge, London SW3 1RW

Beauty flash
GENTLEMAN'S RELISH

Keep it nice and clean, lads. By Katie Thomas

LIZ EARLE

Cleanse & Polish, £14.75
They say 'Use with a muslin cloth to dislodge dead skin cells.'
We say Stuff the muslin. Why not pair with that manly-looking Clinique cleansing brush, *far right*, for an even deeper clean?

BAMFORD

Shave Oil, £30
They say 'Skin is left feeling protected and intensely hydrated.'
We say That'll be the borage. Clever people, those Bamfords.

SUSANNE KAUFMANN

Moisturising Gel, £57
They say 'Cares for skin that is prone to dryness.'
We say It's quick to absorb, so it's perfect for chaps on the go. Smells glorious too.

TOM FORD

Beard Comb, £28
They say 'To create the perfect beard.'
We say You comb the hair on your head, so why not do the same to your face? And why not do it with a comb from Tom Ford?

CLINIQUE

Cleansing Brush, £79
They say 'Charcoal-infused bristles draw out debris.'
We say Seriously – they do. A foolproof way of getting rid of all the day's dirt and grime.

BRISK

Beard Shampoo, £4.99
They say 'Leaves hair soft to the touch.'
We say Scratchy beards are a turn-off. When have you ever heard a woman say, 'I love it when I get a stubble rash'? Never.

FLORIS

Shaving Soap & Bowl, £35
They say 'Formulated with shea butter to create a rich, creamy lather.'
We say There's something rather pleasing about whipping up your own shaving foam from a slab of soap. And that wooden bowl will look so smart by the sink.

ACQUA DI PARMA

Italian Resort Revitalising Eye Cream, £51
They say 'Nourishes, moisturises and thickens the eye-contour skin.'
We say A few weeks using this and you'll knock at least five years off. But keep it hidden from your wife.

STILL-LIFES: JODY TODD

VOGUE café

Vogue Café Moscow
Kuznetsk Bridge 7/9, Moscow, Russia

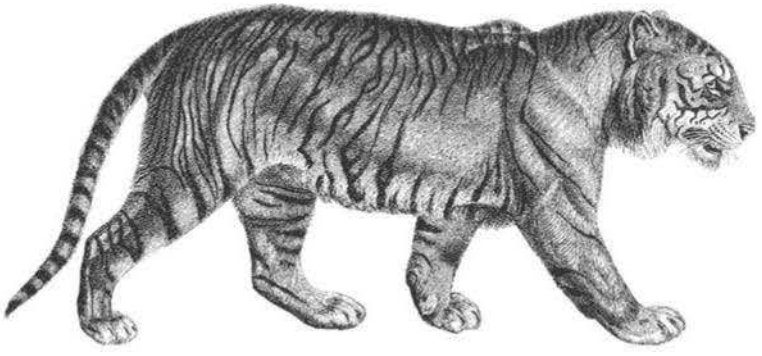
Vogue Café at The Dubai Mall
Dubai, UAE

Vogue Café Kiev
Fairmont Grand Hotel, Kiev, Ukraine

Vogue Lounge Bangkok
MahaNakhon CUBE, Bangkok, Thailand

CONDÉ NAST INTERNATIONAL RESTAURANTS

voguecafe.com |



TIGER. *Panthera tigris*. FACING EXTINCTION.

Nature needs big cats, and big cats need big spaces

Everywhere that big cats are found they are at the top of their food chains. They are ancient predators essential to the balance of their environments. Without them, the biodynamic orders of the areas they have dominated for thousands of years would collapse, leaving us with a natural world bleaker and less varied than ever before.

All of the world's big cats – from cheetahs to jaguars and pumas – are now under threat. Development and the swell of human populations in previously wild areas is robbing these animals of their habitats and the wilderness of its dignity. In many of these environments, these increasingly rare animals are still hunted for body parts and sport, too.

At the World Land Trust, we are working with 29 organisations in 22 countries to enable local communities to buy and save parcels of land for permanent conservation, and to work with local communities to find ways for them to live in harmony alongside big cats.

We urgently need to raise £500,000 to preserve the most important remaining big cat habitats. Nature as we know it is disappearing and the only time we have to save it is now.

For more information go to *www.worldlandtrust.org*

"The money that is given to the World Land Trust, in my estimation, has more effect on the wild world than almost anything I can think of."
— *Sir David Attenborough*, Patron, World Land Trust

WORLD LAND TRUST

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

TATLER TRAVEL

Edited by FRANCISCA KELLETT

Photographed by GUS GREGORY

Buddhist monks at the Mekong river

PHOTOGRAPH: BRUNO COSSA/SIME/4CORNERS

DON'T MISS THE BOAT!

Fancy drifting down the Mekong Delta, in a very smart ship, eating noodles and pigs' nipples? Of course you do. By Ciara Parkes

Parkes embarks on a Saigon food tour by scooter

FIRST STOP SAIGON

There are two obsessions in Saigon (or Ho Chi Minh City, as it is officially known): scooters and food. The city has eight million people and six million scooters. It's also the mothership of street food. So the only way of exploring (and eating) our way around Saigon was from the back of a scooter, at dusk, when tiny stalls were set on the pavements and little dishes magicked up on single rings.

Our guides to the very best secret foodie hangouts were the all-knowing Beverly and Three. In Vietnam, children are often known by numbers: families are enormous and it's the number, not the name, that sticks. So our guide, Three, took us to our first stop, Mrs Eight's place. This eighth child's pho noodles were the business, served with a limed fish sauce and followed by bowls of delicate bun thit nuong – cotton-thin noodles with vegetables and tangy spiced pork.

We scooted across to the strange, modernist structures around Turtle Lake, where women crouched low over their colourful creations: buttered rice-paper pancakes stuffed with quails' eggs, spring onion and pork, and bap xao, salted corn sprinkled with powdered, sugared shrimp. Sounds peculiar; tastes amazing.

Finally to Ngoi, a barbecue restaurant serving weird and sometimes wonderful morsels – deer, pork, shrimp (wonderful), chicken feet and pigs' nipples (weird). We stopped short at the frog hotpot.

LEFT, A STREET VENDOR MAKING RICE-PAPER PANCAKES, TURTLE LAKE. *RIGHT*, BARBECUE DISHES AT NGOI

LEFT, A FAMILY WASHING LAUNDRY IN THE MEKONG. *RIGHT*, A VEGETABLE DISH SERVED ON THE BOAT

THE BOAT

From the noise and chaos of the city to the calm of the river – and the newest way of exploring the waterways between Vietnam and Cambodia, the *Aqua Mekong*. You often hear boats being described as floating boutique hotels, but with the *Aqua Mekong* it's actually true. This boat has state-of-the art EVERYTHING, including a spa and cabins that would give an Aman hotel a run for its money. The suites have glossy treacle-coloured wood floors, raw-silk throws, low, soft-as-a-cloud beds and floor-to-ceiling windows, which means you don't have to move a muscle to wallow in the watery views.

Siam, the genius young Cambodian chef, cooked local food that changed as we crossed the border – crunchy prawn cakes, sour orange curry with river fish and water mimosa, Kampot pepper and mud crab with hot basil, all served on deck as we floated past misty shores and 18th-century temples. The other guests were a chatty, international lot (English, American, Belgian), and we'd sit together in the evenings, yakking away and knocking back the wine. It was very jolly.

Each day we'd all clamber into wooden skiffs to whizz along ancient canals bedecked with blooming water hyacinths, to visit temples, homes and floating markets. Back on board, there were lectures, lazy hours on smart black sunloungers, dips in the pool, icy beers and chilli nuts. Or brilliant, strong massages in the little spa.

***Right*, one of the bedrooms on board. *Far right*, the deck**

PHOTOGRAPHS: SHUTTERSTOCK

Villages on stilts along the river

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

We passed dozens of traditional Vietnamese villages, where the canalside houses are built on stilts, perching above the water with rickety piers leading down for ablutions and suchlike. Each tiny village spills out onto the teeming river, where boats filled with cassava, mangoes and watermelons ply their trade, and they all have a factory, in the loosest sense of the word – fish farms, basket-weaving factories, coffin-makers or frog-breeders. We dropped by a rice factory in the Cai Be District, churning out artisan paper and vodka-like hooch. Sticky malt and ginger sweets were rolled onto giant tables and cut and folded into tiny, exquisite wrappings.

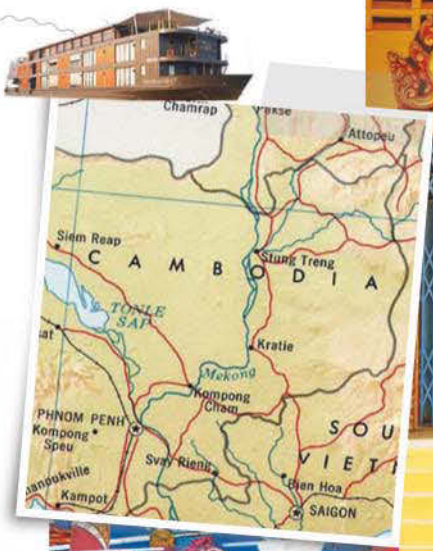
We pootled along the water's edge on bicycles, visiting another village and its embroidery co-operative. Outside, fighting cocks with spurs bound to their legs practised for the upcoming championships, the local kids whooping their support. The last visit was to a fish farm floating in the middle of the canal, with women in sampan hats fanning themselves as they threw buckets of feed into big drums of spawning fry.

ABOVE, BOATS AROUND THE FLOATING VILLAGES. *BELOW*, A COCKFIGHT

Mr Kiet's House

GRAND DESIGNS

In the 19th century, it was all the rage to build grand wooden houses along the riverbanks – the rich and influential Khmers were all at it. This wooden beauty, Mr Kiet's House, *left*, a museum and private house, was built entirely out of wood, without a single nail. Clever. His descendants are still there; sliding walls are used to create private spaces. Also clever.



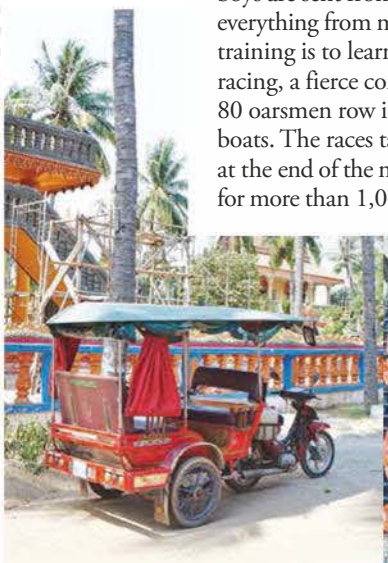
RIGHT, PARKES ON THE STEPS OF WAT KHBAL KOH. *BELOW RIGHT*, MONKS AT A TEMPLE, CAMBODIA. *LEFT*, A TEMPLE INTERIOR

Silk weaving on Koh Oknha Tey

INTO CAMBODIA

As we sailed across the border, the Mekong shifted and changed. Ancient temples suddenly poked their elaborate tops from between trees along the banks and small islands cropped up, all aflutter with nesting birds. We popped over to one called Koh Oknha Tey, to see local silk weavers spin dazzling threads into fabulous scarves and wraps at £3 a pop (we bought armfuls of the things).

There was a brief pause to sip coconut water fresh from the trees, before we hopped into a tuk-tuk to tour the island farms and the Wat Khbal Koh, a vast yellow temple where boys are sent from the age of 12 to study everything from maths to religion. Part of their training is to learn the art of Dragon Boat racing, a fierce competition in which up to 80 oarsmen row in brightly painted wooden boats. The races take place every November at the end of the monsoon, as they have done for more than 1,000 years. ▷



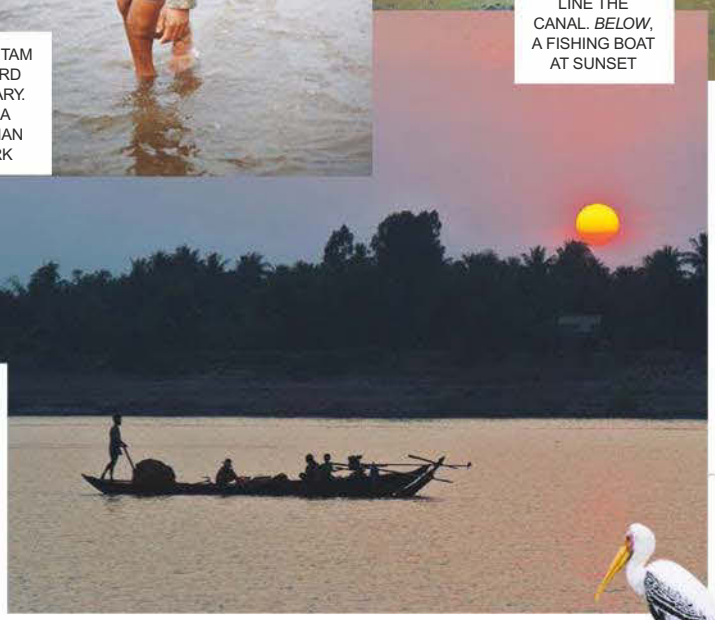
***Right*, a tuk-tuk**

Barbecued chickens outside Wat Khbal Koh temple

Lotus flowers

LEFT, THE TAM NONG BIRD SANCTUARY. *RIGHT*, A FISHERMAN AT WORK

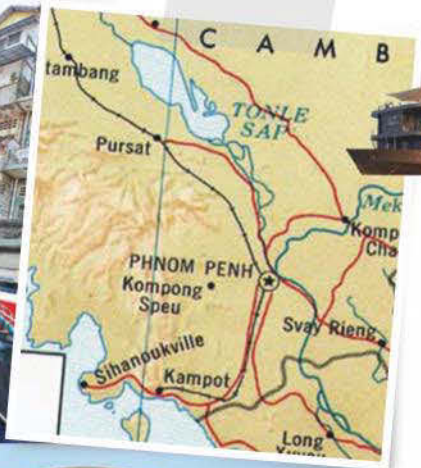
ABOVE, MANGROVES LINE THE CANAL. *BELOW*, A FISHING BOAT AT SUNSET



WINGING IT

We spent an afternoon zipping through the flooded lotus marshlands of the 18,000-acre Tam Nong bird sanctuary, past mangroves, pink waterlilies, snuffling water buffaloes and divebombing birds – great hornbills, pied kingfishers, painted storks and cormorants.

Then, instead of heading straight back, we were taken to Koh Choram, a beautiful sandy spit of land, just as the fishermen were pulling in their nets: the crew set up throws, cushions and cocktails and we helped haul in the catch as the sun dipped below the horizon.



ARRIVING IN PHNOM PENH

Drifting into Phnom Penh felt a little like arriving in Thirties Shanghai – teak riverboats with steamer chairs on deck ploughed back and forth before us as we anchored dockside. But the city itself, founded in the 15th century, felt curiously European: wide boulevards, neat roundabouts, Belle Epoque colonial façades stained from the humidity, all leading down to the buzzing riverbank where students sat outside cafés, smoking French cigarettes.

A fruit stall in Phnom Penh

***Top left*, a rickshaw.**
***Left*, the Central Market**

Phsar Chas market

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The Russian market is famously full of fake everything, so if that's what you want, knock yourself out. Otherwise, there are atmospheric food markets like Phsar Chas, where women gut fish on their laps while men pile snails shoulder-high. You can buy just about anything here – lotus root, jackfruit, catfish and five types of writhing eels, should you wish.

The Royal Palace

FIT FOR A KING

The Cambodian royal family know how to live. Their remarkable palace dominates the city and its magnificent pitched roofs can be seen across town. They let you saunter around the grounds too, which is nice of them. The famous Silver Pagoda isn't exactly a silver pagoda, but it does have a floor of dulled silver, lined with regimented rows of diamond and gold Buddhas. There are old elephant stables as well (now housing the loos, not elephants).

Left, a stupa at the Royal Palace

The pool at Raffles. *Below*, one of its corridors. *Bottom*, a poolside lunch

LAST STOP RAFFLES HOTEL LE ROYAL

If you want to feel like a very glamorous extra in a Poirot movie (without the grisly murders), opt for Raffles. We were met at the docks by a smart chauffeur and ushered into a blacked-out Mercedes that took off with fluttering flags. The hotel is breezy-white, colonial, beautiful – restored and spiffed and sparkling. The bedrooms in the main building have French windows that, flung open, reveal the turquoise pool below, where a lunch of pork-and-coriander spring rolls is served beneath a canopy of blossom. The famous Elephant Bar is the kind of place where you expect to find W Somerset Maugham propping up the bar (he was once a resident here); it serves the finest pisco sour this side of Lake Titicaca. □

Raffles Hotel Le Royal

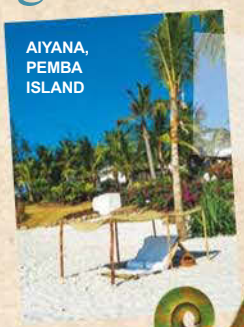
BOOK IT *Steppes Travel offers nine days, including return flights with Thai Airways and a four-night cruise on the Aqua Mekong, with full board, excursions and sightseeing in Saigon and Phnom Penh, and accommodation at the Sofitel Saigon Plaza and Raffles Hotel Le Royal, from £3,395 per person (steppestravel.com; 0843 7789926).*

PHOTOGRAPHS: SHUTTERSTOCK, ISTOCK, MARTIN NICHOLAS KUNZ, ALAMY

News of the WORLD

North, south, east, west – the best.
By Francisca Kellett and Mary Lussiana

Bragging rights



AIYANA, PEMBA ISLAND

You love Africa, and you love a silky white beach. But you've done Mozambique and South Africa, and Zanzibar is waaaaay too tame. So how about **Pemba Island**, a quick hop north of Zanzibar – rolling, lush, wild (it even has its own voodoo), but still with mind-boggling beaches and the best diving in East Africa. And now there's Aiyana, a cool, white-villa marvel on the north coast, with an astonishing beach and a hefty nod at benefiting the local community. *Seven nights, from £1,295 per person, full board (africatravel.co.uk).*

Say Wat?!

Angkor Wat is amazing and all, but it also attracts two million visitors a year. Which is quite a lot. Which is why you need a refuge to scurry away to and recover in. Enter breezy-calm new **Phum Baitang**, a 10-minute drive from the complex, with 45 villas dotted around soothing green rice paddies. All are styled on traditional Cambodian homes, some with private pools (so not *entirely* like traditional Cambodian homes), and everything is terrifically chic and tactile: rough local wood, stone, linen, big waxy tropical foliage. Plus there's a proper spa, a kids' club, two restaurants and a cocktail bar. *Double, from £190 (phumbaitang.com).*

ABOVE, PHUM BAITANG. *BELOW,* TREKKING ACROSS ANTARCTICA. *BELOW RIGHT,* THE SOUTH POLE ITSELF

BUCKET LIST

Always fancied setting foot on the South Pole but frankly can't be arsed with the whole getting-fitter-than-Jessica-Ennis-Hill thing? Say a happy hello to the **Explorations Company**, which has launched extraordinary trans-Antarctic expeditions with Arctic Trucks, a world first. It's not all sitting back and enjoying the views, though. There's skiing, snow-mobiling and a tramp up to the continent's highest peak, Mount Vinson. *Seven days, from £110,000 per person, all inclusive (explorationscompany.com).*

CHINA IN YOUR HAND

Swire Hotels (the clever chaps behind Hong Kong's Upper House and Beijing's Opposite House) has just launched its third 'House', the **Temple House Hotel**, in Chengdu, which weaves 21st-century slickness with the 1,000-year-old history of the adjoining Daci temple, Qing dynasty heritage and lots of whispering bamboo. Another third, for Aman in China, is **Amandayan**. It's set high above pagoda-filled Lijiang; there are distant snowcapped mountains and traditional courtyard buildings housing 35 suites – very modern, very Aman, but overlaid with local woodcarvings and embroidery. *Doubles, from £205 and £515 (thetemplehousehotel.com and amanresorts.com/amandayan).*

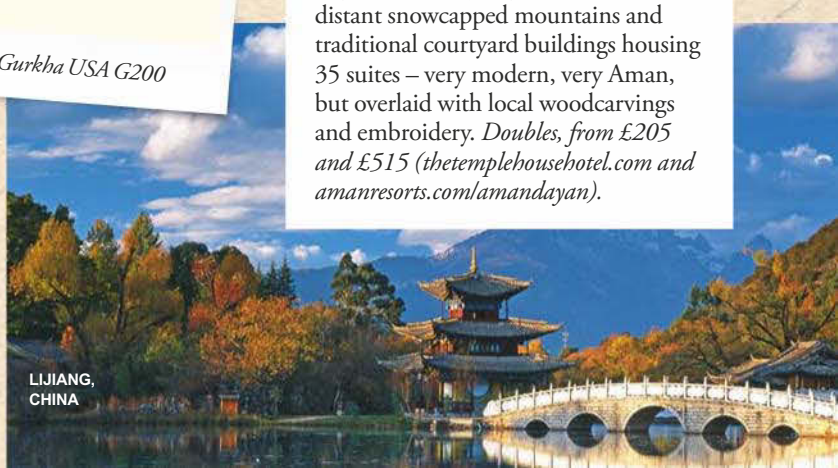
WELL, WELL, WELL...

We're partial to the odd yoga retreat. But we're also quite fond of our children. Which is why new **White Calm Retreats** is just the ticket. It's a sort of spa super-concierge that does bespoke to the hilt – they'll bring anything spa- and wellness-related to you. So rent a villa in Ibiza, say, or a hotel room in Mauritius, take the sprogs, and then let a crack team of yoga teachers, acupuncturists, osteopaths and whatnot pop over when you want them. No timetable, no restrictions and no pesky spa-goers to get in the way. *whitecalmretreats.com*

The Gurkha USA G200

BAGSIES!

We do like a natty holdall, especially when it's made with the same green wool as the Gurkha uniform, like the **Gurkha USA G200**. Best of all, 25 per cent of proceeds go towards the Gurkha Welfare Trust. *£1,650 at Fortnum & Mason or gurkha200.co.uk*



LIJIANG, CHINA

PHOTOGRAPHS: SHUTTERSTOCK, ISTOCK, ALAMY

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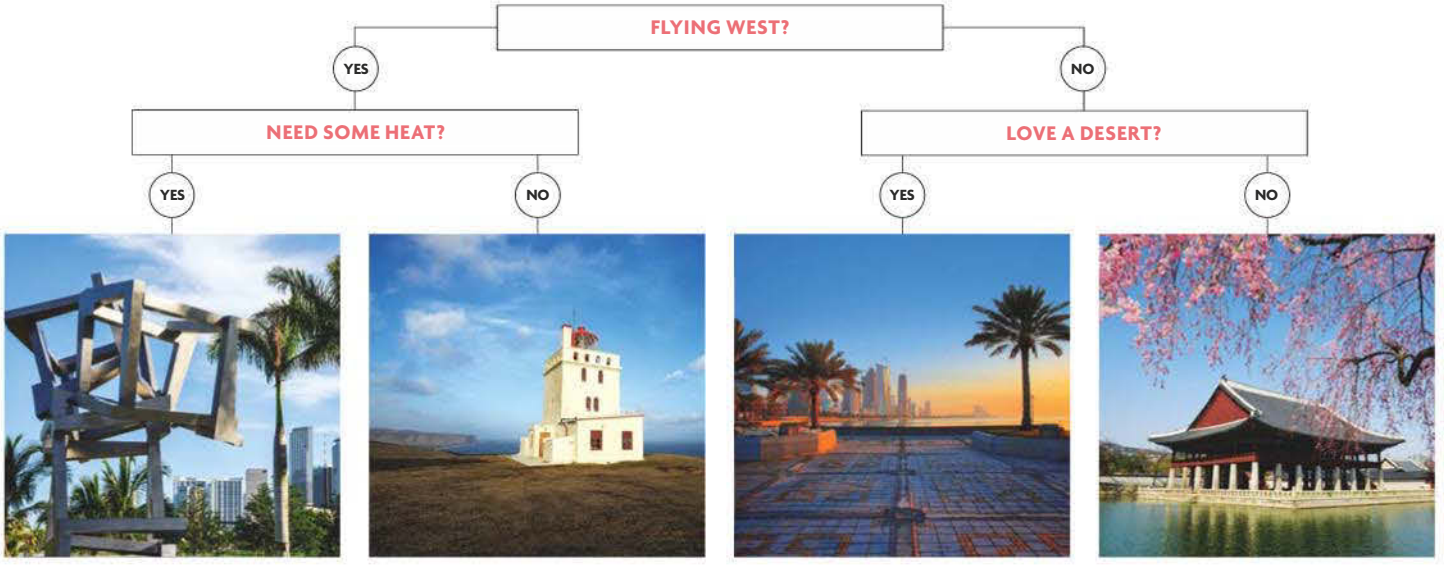
Where to go...
FOR A SINGULAR STOPOVER



MIAMI

Miami Beach is 100 this year, but – like its residents – it doesn't look a day over 21 (it's had some very good work). There are all the usual reasons for visiting: the beach, the pastel-coloured art-deco houses, the beach, the hilarious people-watching, the beach... But there's also art galore, with three international festivals (Art Basel Miami Beach, Art Miami and Design Miami), plus the funky Wynwood Arts District, crammed with over 80 galleries. Oh, and super museums – notably the MOCA and Pérez – and the shiny Frank Gehry-designed New World Centre, home to the New World Symphony, AND the new Faena Arts District, opening this month. New hotels are popping up all over the shop too, including the Faena Miami Beach, Thompson, the Edition, 1 Hotel and Nautilus, all snapping at the glossy heels of last year's hottest arrival, Metropolitan by Como, which has its own private beach – just the thing after all that highbrow stuff.

BOOK IT BA's new A380 Heathrow to Miami route launches next month, from £738 return (ba.com).

ICELAND

There's more to Iceland than volcanoes. For starters, have you ever wanted to sleep in a lighthouse? Of course you have. Make your way to the island's southernmost tip, to the old Dyrhólaey lighthouse near Vík, which looks more like a teeny castle and is currently a pop-up hotel (until 1 November). The decor is simple, minimal Nordic: wood floors and Icelandic wool throws. The private chef will cook up local delicacies/oddities like puffin (not for the faint-hearted – like fishy chicken), smoked trout and skyr (a sort of yoghurt) with crowberries. The views are stark and stunning: rocks, black-pebble beaches, moss, sea. You won't see another soul for miles. Stop staring, though – there's things to do: ride an Icelandic horse (like a pony but with a better mane), nip behind the Seljalandsfoss waterfall, hop on a helicopter to swoop above Reykjavik or kick back in the outdoor geothermal pools at Laugarvatn Fontana Spa.

BOOK IT Icelandair offers stopover packages (including Gatwick to New York or Washington), from £398 return (icelandair.com/stopover).

QATAR

You probably think that Doha is basically Dubai. And yes, there are crazy-shaped high-rises and glittering sea and shiny-shiny hotels (and lots of traffic). But there's also a hefty nod to the country's heritage, which means – shock! – culture. So you can lounge by the pool at the palatial St Regis, but you can also mooch about the Museum of Islamic Art, spanning 1,400 years and housed in a cubic limestone marvel. You can have a very jolly Friday at the W Hotel's all-day jazz brunch, but you can also stroll around a proper souk (convincingly rebuilt – feels like it's been there for centuries), complete with its own falcon section, where you can buy everything you could ever need for you and your falcon, including a falcon. There's desert dune-bashing, but also camel racing; beach reggae nights, but also a whacking great spa at the new (and alcohol-free) Banana Island Resort. OK, so spas aren't that cultural. But you catch our drift.

BOOK IT Qatar Airways flies six times daily from Heathrow to Doha, from £732 return (qatarairways.com; qatartourism.gov.qa).

SEOUL

Move over, Hong Kong – Seoul's THE stop-off if you're eastward-bound. Karl Lagerfeld showcased his Chanel 2016 cruise collection here (and if it's good enough for Karl...). Beautiful old buildings your thing? Of the five Grand Palaces built during the Joseon dynasty, Gyeongbokgung Palace is the one to visit, home to the National Folk and National Palace Museums, so you can swot up on Korean history. Snaffle up street food such as bindaetteok (mung-bean pancakes) at nearby Gwangjang Market. Into art? Whizz over to the Leeum Samsung Museum for traditional and modern Korean art. Next up, shopping: take the metro to Gangnam (yes, THAT Gangnam – it means 'south of the river') to Apgujeong Rodeo Street, Seoul's answer to Sloane Street, or stroll to Garosu-gil, with its cool boutiques and ginkgo-tree-lined streets. Sleep at the slick, new Glad Hotel Yeouido, overlooking downtown; if jetlag is keeping you up, at least you'll have a view to gaze at.

BOOK IT Korean Air flies daily from Heathrow to Incheon (Seoul), from £580 return (koreanair.com).

PHOTOGRAPHS: GETTY IMAGES, ALAMY. WORDS: FRANCISCA KELLETT, BEATRIZ CHOI

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PHILIPPA CADOGAN & LOUIS

MARK SHEWARD

LADY VIOLET MANNERS & LADY KITTY SPENCER

NATASHA MOUFARRIGE

SUMMERTIME...

...and the living is breezy

At this year's Cartier Queen's Cup at the Guards Polo Club, play was delayed by a gazebo blowing across the pitch. An ambulance raced across the field in its wake but luckily there were no injuries. And by the end of the afternoon, the gusts had calmed, the sun was shining and **Lady Kitty Spencer** and **Lady Violet Manners**, along with **Arnaud Bamberger** – who this year retires as executive chairman of Cartier UK to become its honorary chairman – danced to DJ **Hugo Heathcote**'s Balearic beats. Goal!

Photographed by MARCUS DAWES

ESTEBAN PINO

BEAR GRYLLS

LARA HUGHES-YOUNG & LOTTIE MURRAY WELLS

ALEXANDRA EDWARDS & CARLO CARELLO

CARLA & ARNAUD BAMBERGER

COUNTESS & EARL OF MARCH AND KINRARA

Lies to tell lefties

Statelies keep the whole deer

When you see the head, replete with antlers, hanging on the wall, the rest of the deer is actually in the room behind. Before the war, this was how people kept their venison, chopping a bit off whenever they got hungry. These days they seal it in formaldehyde, though, mainly so you can't have it.

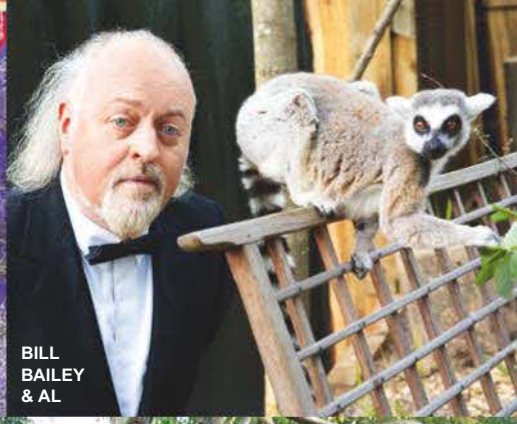
By Hugo Rifkind, who writes for The Times

MARK VESTEY

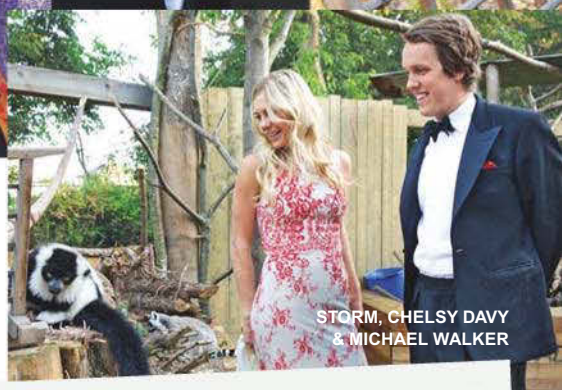
THE QUEEN

MAX, SARAH CHENEVIX-TRENCH & PADDY WILLS

LADY GABRIELLA WINDSOR & TOM KINGSTON



BILL BAILEY & AL



STORM, CHELSY DAVY & MICHAEL WALKER

ZOO'S WHO

The social animals went in two by two

'Someone told me it's all happening at the zoo,' sang Simon & Garfunkel, and you know what? I do believe it's true. This summer the Zoological Society of London threw a gala dinner among the marmosets and mongooses, and raised some £230,000 for the conservation of the critically endangered Asiatic lion. **Lady Gabriella Windsor** and **Tom Kingston** whizzed around in a rickshaw, **Bill Bailey** made friends with a lemur and **Michael Walker** monkeyed about doing animal impressions with **Chelsy Davy** – who wasn't all that impressed and promptly ditched him, leaving poor Michael to make small talk with the armadillos.

Photographed by PIERS ALLARDYCE

DIANE SAID & ADRIANA CHRYSSICOPOULOS

Perry, Jessica Jones and Jacqueline Wright

STORM & REBECCA JONES

GITANJALI BHATTACHARYA & JULIEN GODFREY

CATHERINE & ALEX SCHMID, MAX & GRANT KOTHER

DARREN COHEN & ANNIKA ANCVERINA

GILES & LUCY WHEELER

VICTORIA MABY, ROBIN CHATWIN & EMMA FIRTH

CLAIRE BYRNE & CATHERINE PUGSLEY

NO BOOTS REQUIRED

Sometimes the sun even shines on Clapham

Will it? Won't it? Rain was on guests' minds at this year's Trinity Hospice party, held in Trinity Gardens in Clapham. Piles of coats were stashed by the entrance even though it was a summer's day, and there were even some pessimists who brought wellies. It was all sunshine, though, as the event – aided by a steel band, some 480 bottles of wine and an awful lot of extremely pleased parents who'd got their children's Common Entrance results that morning – raised over £50,000 for compassionate end-of-life care. Full marks all round.

Photographed by PIERS ALLARDYCE

STEPHANIE & SIMON HUNT

KATE HILL & PAUL & CARTER JACKSON

Kate Shepphard and Brendan McLaughlin

THE TATLER GUIDE TO PESTS

There are many different species, each irritating in its own, unique way

Food pest Type 1: 'I'm not going to eat tonight...' And as your chips arrive, a hand darts over and – gobble, gobble, gobble, with a quick aside to the waitress: 'Don't suppose you have mayonnaise?' Type 2: 'Birthday cake! For me? Gosh, that's sweet – except, sigh, I'm gluten-free.'

Cigarette pest 'Have you got a spare one? I'm more of a social smoker these days...'

Sex pest 'OK. I get it. But can I just rest it there for a minute?'

Charity pest 'You know what? I'll just put you guys down for a table. Just one. You don't have to bid. Or actually, definitely do bid, but only bid to get the bidding going. And if you get stuck with a prize, then they're pretty blinding. It's £10,000 for eight of you, which is bog-standard, really, so it's not like we're taking the piss.'

Work pest 'I don't really know what I want to do right now – but, like, are there any jobs at yours? Or, like, do you think you could just send my CV round and see if anything pops up? Though, obvs, I can't work Fridays.'

Host pest 'We don't really believe in early starts – we're on holiday, after all. So, tennis at 9.30am? Then you have to see the darling little market, and I just want to stop by the ironmonger's and the garden centre. After lunch we'll climb Mont Blanc, back in time for a lake swim and sundowners, and then a couple of rounds of charades. You did bring your walking shoes and waterproofs, right?'

iPod-dock pest 'Out of the way! I have good tune! I have super-hot, totally banging tune! And now... DANCE! All of you – DANCE!'

PHOTOGRAPH: SHUTTERSTOCK

TOM FABER

PATRICIA TALALLA

OLIVIA HUNT & SUSANNA WARREN

MARK BALDWIN

WHERE'S WILLY?

Letting it all hang out with the Beaufort

A wooden signpost greeted **Guy Pelly**, **Tor Farquhar** and **Alex Rose** at the Beaufort Hunt's Spring Fling: one arrow pointed 'Down the Rabbit Hole', while another declared, 'We're All Mad Here'. Both paths proved suitably bonkers – guests found either a band of fancy-dress gorillas begging to be tickled or a giant wooden penis. And then there was the 'Hanky Panky' lady, who stripped down to her underwear, and a male tap dancer, who toppled off the stage (these events were not connected). Meanwhile, **Archie Manners** wowed everyone with his magic, the bar dispensed Absolut Vodka espresso martinis and host **Rory Sweet** showed some lucky guests his rocket (literally).

Photographed by MARCUS DAWES

Tor Farquhar, Davina Longsdon and Rose Hipwood

VANDA BRASSEY

ALEX ROSE

FRANCOISE SINCLAIR, ELIZABETH ANN PARAVICINI & JONKS SEYMOUR-WILLIAMS

ARCHIE MANNERS

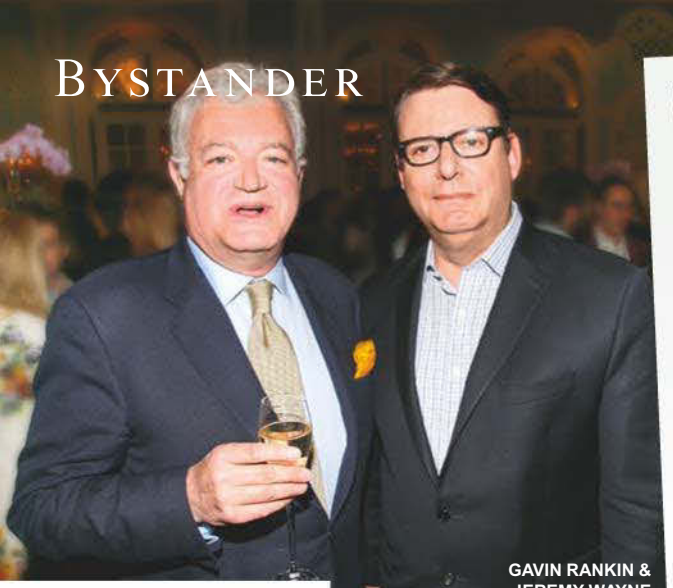
VANDA PELLY & GUY & LIZZY PELLY

ROBERT & VICTORIA JONES-DAVIES

COME AND CHECK OUT MY HUGE MISSILE

LOUISE MOXON, JONKS SEYMOUR-WILLIAMS & RORY SWEET

CHARLES WALKER, CHRISTINE & NEIL HAMILTON, TIGGI WALKER, RORY SWEET, LOUISE MOXON & JONKS SEYMOUR-WILLIAMS



GAVIN RANKIN & JEREMY WAYNE

Ali and Bob Parkinson

DAVID HESKETH & PATRICIA STEVENSON

ELAINE PAIGE & NICKOLAS GRACE

JUSTIN CLARKE

RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

Give it up for the gods and goddesses of grub

The Tatler Restaurant Awards at the Savoy had all the right ingredients: lashings of Laurent-Perrier (the sponsors, alongside Taste of London), the world's hottest chefs and restaurateurs, and some sauciness. **David Hesketh** said he had been late arriving at the ceremony because of 'nose to tail' traffic, before handing the Laurent-Perrier Lifetime Achievement Award to St John's **Fergus Henderson**. What a crowd-pleaser!

SANDRA & ANDY WRIGHT

JACK ADAIR BEVAN & MARK GURNEY

JIM MORRIS, CLAUDE COMPTON & EMILY SHIRES

TATLER RESTAURANT AWARDS 2015

BEST RISING-STAR CHEF
Lee Westcott at the Typing Room

BEST BUZZ
Kitty Fisher's

BEST DISH
Game pie at Corrigan's Mayfair

BEST FRONT OF HOUSE
Marcus

BEST OF BRITISH
Sam and Georgie Pearman

BEST KITCHEN
Gymkhana

MOST CONSISTENTLY EXCELLENT
Momo

LAURENT-PERRIER LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
Fergus Henderson

TASTE OF LONDON BEST NEW RESTAURANT
Fera at Claridge's

TATLER RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR
The Palomar

DANIEL BRENNAN & ROB DANN

SAM & JANE SHEPPARD

THE QUEEN & THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH

FRANKIE DETTORI ON GOLDEN HORN

COLTS & CAKE

All tastes catered to at the Investec Derby

From racing royalty in the form of **Lester Piggott** to real royalty and then, ahem, royalty-drama royalty **Elizabeth Hurley**, there was something for everyone at this year's Investec Derby, part of the QIPCO British Champions Series. And not just in terms of those present (those three young studs **Lord Settrington**, **Vere Rothermere** and **Ollie Ayton** would be well worth a flutter), but in the activities on offer – from the first-class racing provided by **Frankie Dettori**, who stormed to victory on Golden Horn, to the creative cake-decorating bar where **Jake Warren** showed off his impressive domestic skills...

SOPHIE LUSSIER

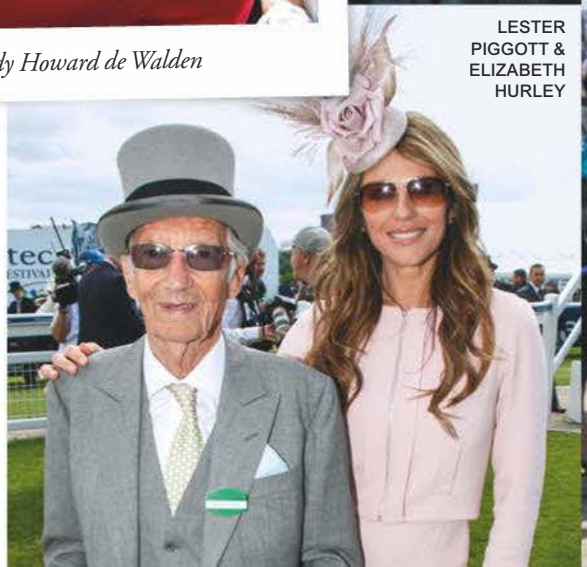
LORD EDWARD SPENCER-CHURCHILL

BARRY & DALE CHEVALLIER GUILD

Lady Howard de Walden

ROBIN HURLSTONE & DAPHNE GUINNESS

HARRY JONES, JAKE PULHAM & FREDDY JONES


LESTER PIGGOTT & ELIZABETH HURLEY

PRINCESS ALEXANDRA

ABIR CHATILLA, RIMA SHOUR & ZAINAB DAYEKH

HELEN JENKS & RUTH WROBEL

RIMA SHOUR & KATHRYN RAPHAEL

TANIA BRYER

BELLES & DECIBELS

Making some noise for a brilliant cause

At this year's Foreign Sisters Ninth Annual Lunch, held at the Royal Opera House and sponsored by Dior, **Lady Palumbo** gathered together **Serena Hood**, **Robin Hambro** and 397 other women from over 60 countries to help raise more than £200,000 for Cancer Research UK – that's an impressive list of figures, rivalled only by the decibel count in the room during **Tania Bryer**'s hilarious welcome speech.

Photographed by DARREN GERRISH

DAME VIVIEN DUFFIELD & ROBIN HAMBRO

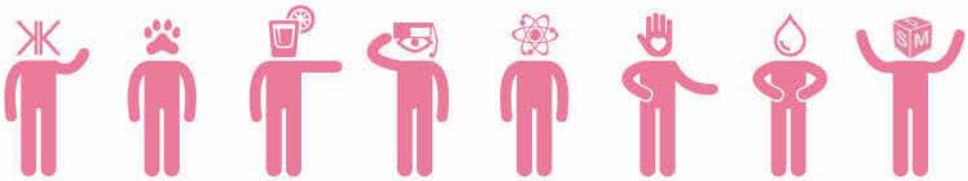
Natasha Hochet-Raab, Pierre de Maigret and Lady Palumbo

MICHELLE YUE, ALLISON HENRY, AMANDA NEWSON, JACKIE O'LEARY & KATE GORDON

HOW TO BREAK INTO A CONVERSATION

Parties are designed to be fun. But there are dampeners. Awkwardnesses: bowl food, too many pervy men, not enough pervy men and – the absolute killer – finding yourself stranded on the Island of Alone. We've all been there – pretending to text, nipping out for one more sad cigarette, repeatedly retiring to the bathroom to endure yet another long, dark pee of the soul... and all the while those people over there look like they are having such an excellent time. So here's a list of solutions:

Eight fail-safe opening gambits



Announce breaking Kardashian news.

Have a dog.

Take a tray of shots round the room – someone will bite.

Put your Google Glass on.

Fetch Stephen Hawking.

Grab an arse – 'Oh, I thought you were Channing Tatum...'

Cry.

Dive straight in with an excellent Shag Marry Die.

PHOTOGRAPH: SHUTTERSTOCK

LIVI SHEAN, MIKE TOLLER, HAMISH BLAIR & ANNABEL WILCKEN

ALEXANDRA SHAW, GALEN CRAWLEY & MYRIAM ABOUKHATER

VOWS & WOWS

All change for the bride

It may have briefly rained at **Ollie Maitland** and **Ekaterina Rozenbaum**'s wedding at Elmore Court, but the mood was sunny, as it tends to be when two lovely young people are in love and there are unlimited vodka shots. The bride heckled the groom and best man during the speeches, and made an unexpected costume change for the first dance to Michael Jackson's emotional 'Love Never Felt So Good'...

Photographed by WOJTEK CHRAPEK

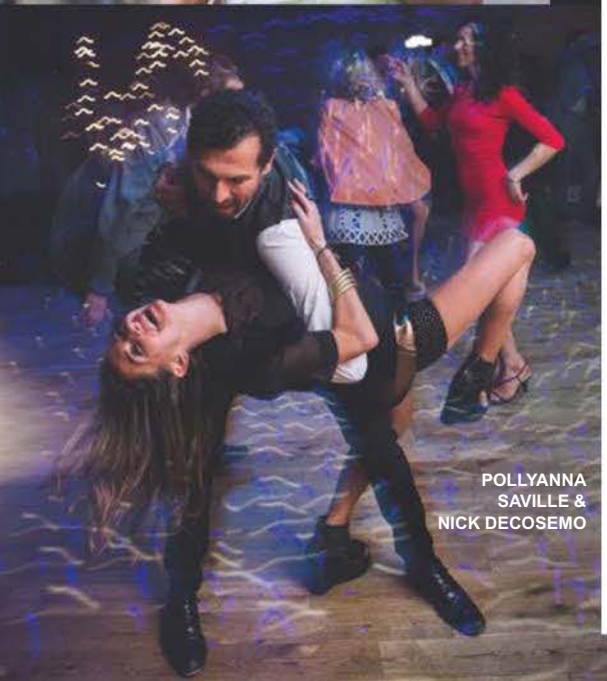
Lukasz Cholewiak and Louis Edridge-Sidey

DAISY WALKER & CHRISTOPHER RAMSEY

KARINA BOCHINA

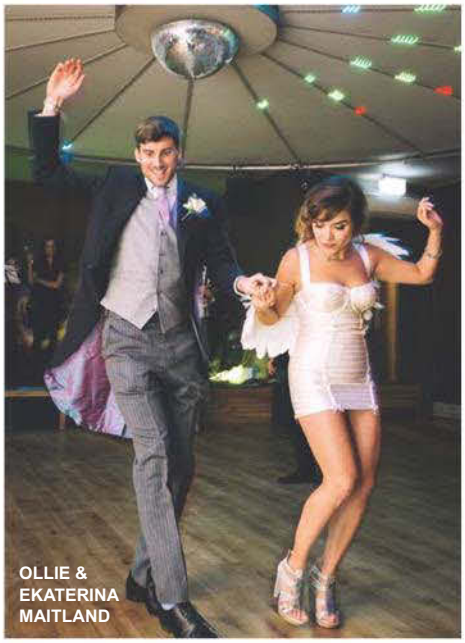
TATSIANA SHALIUTA & CHRIS HANSON

ANTONY MAITLAND & ANGIE BALDWIN



POLLYANNA SAVILLE & NICK DECOSEMO

DRESSING UP... GETTING DOWN



OLLIE & EKATERINA MAITLAND

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1. Palmaira Sandals: the new suitcase essential. A fabulous range of ethically sourced, lovingly handcrafted authentic Avarca sandals made on the Balearic Islands. For a fashion forward twist, choose from gorgeous fabrics and textured leathers like the bright block neon, metal studded, metallic leathers or natural nubucks. The perfect holiday sandals, these wedges are a great addition to any summer wardrobe to see you from dawn till dusk, beach to bar. Check out www.palmairasandals.com to see the full range or call 07984 428416.

2. Alpaca Annie's Fur Neck Wrap will add a touch of elegance (and warmth) to any outfit, perfect for the winter season, £69.95. Alpaca Annie are stockists of luxurious products, something for everyone, perfect for every season. You can even adopt one of these gentle, inquisitive animals or enjoy a Trek with them. Call 01303 870527 or visit www.alpacaannie.com

3. BAV TAiLOR, a collective fusion of sharp tailoring, geometrical forms and finest certified fabrics, that represent true hallmarks of Made In Italy and Eco-Sustainability. The collection comprises of premium innovative pieces featuring deconstructed lines, minimal silhouettes and handcrafted details. The philosophy – respect your body and your sphere. Visit www.bavtailor.com

4. Mandarina Shoes: Lustrous Venetian silks, stripes and damasks take centre stage in the glamorous new Autumn/Winter collection at Mandarina. Buy online at www.mandarinashoes.com or call UK 01307 819488.

5. Get creative with **Snowman** premium down outerwear–Detach the hood, loose the fur, ditch the the sleeves! Discover your inner chic at snowmannewyork.com and email info@snowmannewyork.com. Use discount code "TATLER20" for 20% off until 31st October 2015. #snowmannewyork

6. The Head Bloomer creates eye-catching, one of a kind head pieces. The ultimate finishing touch to any outfit. Using a variety of high-quality fabrics and imagination, you will be turning heads at the racecourse. Be it a vintage classic you have in mind, or something extravagant and floral, The Head Bloomer can create something for you. To see more pieces, or to enquire, visit www.theheadbloomer.com

7. Blue Velvet the home of contemporary and Luxury footwear direct from the heart of Europe. Always one step ahead, they have established themselves on their quality and first-rate service. Visit them at: 174 Kings Road, SW3 4UP or call 020 7376 7442. Buy online at www.bluevelvetshoes.com

8. Claremont Clothing is the online clothing boutique for ladies who want something a little bit different that can't be found on the high street! Designed as cruise and beach wear, their range of high quality cotton coverups are also ideal for garden parties when worn with white trousers. View the entire range at www.claremontclothing.com or email sales@claremontclothing.com Free scarf with every purchase – quote TATLER at checkout until 01/12/15.

9. Comfy Clogs. Swedish samibracelets have finally arrived in London! The incredibly popular bracelets you can see on many stars today, are made of reindeer leather with silver and pewter thread with an antler button. Sizes for children, women and men. Visit www.comfyclogs.net or call Cecilia on 07815 750340 or 020 8780 9767 to find out more.

10. Dawn Sunflower is known for her uniquely classic and elegant styles, and luxurious cuts. Her vision is to turn delicate, quality fabrics to fashion with a single moment that will transform a woman's body into art. Her sophisticated designs are movements towards Hollywood Glamour, flattering expressions of beauty and unique sexiness. Visit www.dawnsunflower.com

11. Cashara specialise in a range of beautiful cashmere and silk blend knitwear and accessories, including reversible capes, ponchos, jumpers and wraps. Their latest collection introduces fabulous new styles in an extensive range of wearable, easy colours. Visit www.cashara.co.uk or call 07966 033000.

12. These luxurious 100% Cashmere Ponchos from **Juice Collection** are the perfect accessory for every season! Whether for travelling, a day on the beach or a dinner party, these stunning ponchos can be worn for any occasion and will fit perfectly in your bag. Visit www.juicecollection.co.uk to see the full collection of colours or call 01531 632990 for more information.

13. Rewind Vintage Affairs are dedicated to make shopping for vintage and pre-loved items easy and safe. Consign or buy your Chanel, Hermes, YSL and more. They pay more; up to 70% of the sales price. They sell most items fast and offer a free DHL pickup in the UK. Rewind Vintage Affairs can guarantee the authenticity of every product with a money back guarantee. Shop online at www.rewindvintage.com or call 07590 025456 or 020 7565 0886.

14. Rawhide Co is known for its exquisite coats and jackets in suede and lambskin shearling. Their gorgeous, shockingly soft and sensuous suede and strikingly beautiful lambskin shearling coats, jackets and gilets are beautifully crafted here in the UK from the finest natural materials. A perfect combination of English garment making heritage, bewitching colours and acute, confident design. They will become your key wardrobe pieces – so heavenly you'll never want to take them off. Visit www.rawhideco.com or call or email Kate on 07704 521225 or kate@rawhideco.com

15. Bombshell by Katya Wildman. "Nigella starts a fashion explosion..." The Telegraph. Flattering lengths, discrete neckline, clever sarong draping and secret panels! Use Tatler discount code TSS 15 to receive 20% off your order today. Visit www.bombshellbykatyawildman.com

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1. Brilliant Inc. is a luxury fine jewellery boutique in London's Sloane Square, established to fulfil the dreams of diamond lovers with its exclusive collection of ethically grown, non-mined fine diamonds. Their jewellery is expertly cut using the finest materials to ensure maximum brilliance and fire that lasts forever. With prices from £85, handset in either sterling silver or 9K gold, gemologists agree the only way to tell the difference between their stones and traditional mined diamonds is the price tag! 41 Duke of York's, Sloane Square, London SW3 4LY. Call 020 7259 9555 or visit www.brilliantinc.co.uk

2. Bespoke, beautiful, handmade pieces all made within the UK. **Xanthe Marina** encourages customers to pick and choose from an array of gems, metals and elegant and edgy designs creating individual and unique jewellery that catches the eye and imagination. Call 07768 263198 for more information or visit www.xanthemarina.com

3. The Daphne Signature Silver by **Du Maurier Watches.** Part of a limited edition collection of just 300, this beautiful, Swiss-made timepiece with its turquoise blue strap is the ultimate summer accessory. Daphne Signature Silver with turquoise lizard strap £440. Also available with light pink, hot pink, red or black strap. See the full collection at www.dumaurierwatches.com or call 08455 193074.

4. Featured is a beautiful ring from the Light Drops Collection by **Angela Ciobanu.** Approaching the creation of jewellery like architecture, Angela always looks to place surprising details in conventional shapes. Visit www.angelaciobanu.ro

5. Gemma Redmond Vintage is an online boutique offering beautiful and authentic vintage costume jewellery. Gemma is passionate about selecting pieces that will bring originality into contemporary wardrobes and that will captivate those fascinated by the history of style. Why not take a closer look at her curated collection of designer and finely crafted treasures? Visit www.gemmaredmondvintage.com email hello@gemmaredmondvintage.com or call 07754 313245.

6. Skultuna 1607. Established in the year 1607 and purveyors to H.M. The King of Sweden. View the latest collections of cuff links and men's accessories and shop now at www.skultuna.com or call +46 21 783 00.

7. Madmacdesigns creates fun, affordable and glamorous jewellery. The inspired designer Catriona Godson can also make bespoke items as well as repair, replace and redesign favourite pieces. Pictured here is one of her gorgeous multi-coloured freshwater pearl necklaces which are priced at £27 each – what's not to love? For more information visit www.madmacdesigns.co.uk or call 01798 342902.

8. Genevieve Lau. Jennifer Lau, a Wall Street trader-turned-stylist, has designed a line of effortlessly chic jewelry that women can wear from day into evening. The collection, Genevieve Lau, is named after Lau's great grandmother and combines elegance and edginess with exquisite stones and unique designs. Lau suggests layering her pieces to reflect your individual flair. For enquiries: jennifer@genevievelau.com or visit www.genevievelau.com

9. Gabriela Ramirez is in Art for the physical experience. The forms, the materials, the emptiness in her sculptural jewels, so close to the body, is a valuable exchange of thoughts and feelings, and it always bring out something to the "wearer", or "the contemplator". Visit the full collection at www.gabrielaramirezmichel.com

10. For the finest fake diamond jewellery - combined with some real gems - look no further than **Heavenly Necklaces**; the best-kept secret of royalty and celebrities all over the world. Call 020 7371 8268 or visit www.heavenlynecklaces.com

11. JFG Designs Jewellery. Designer Jules Frkovich created these beautiful, silver shade Swarovski crystal chandeliers in sterling-silver, drawing inspiration from her travels. Sophisticated elegant jewellery that radiates confidence in a women making her feel glamorous! Choose from an array of exquisite pieces at www.jfgdesigns.ca

12. Macabre Gadgets is inspired by the infernal aesthetic, inherent by the worldview of mankind at all times, epochs and styles, from the early Middle Ages to the progressive postmodernism. Concept of jewels is embodied by cutting-edge and traditional fine jewelry execution techniques and materials. Shop at macabregadgets.com contact macabregadgets@gmail.com

13. The personalised Mix & Match bracelet (from £19). This lovely and affordable gift will be engraved by hand with the initials of your choice in their London workshop. The team at Merci Maman will hand-craft your bracelet within only a couple of days and they will gift wrap it in their signature box. Available in both sterling silver and gold plated. For more information, visit www.mercimamanboutique.com or call 020 7731 1377.

14. Keturah specialises in unique handcrafted gemstone jewellery, designed and created in Devon. Each piece is individually handmade using Precious and Semi-precious gemstones, Freshwater Pearls and finished in Sterling Silver. Visit www.keturah.co.uk or contact 07908 060476 for enquiries.

15. Empowering women to MAKE A STATEMENT, **Scandinavian Statements** showcases exclusive Danish brands, Izabel Camille & Dalby Diamonds. Everyday jewellery to stunning diamond creations for special occasions. Real diamonds – wholesale prices. www.scandinavian-statements.com Tel: 03303 801030 Email: info@scandinavian-statements.com Follow us on social media.

16. STYLE NEVER GOES OUT OF FASHION. Cobra & Bellamy make affordable, classically designed watches conveying timeless elegance. Pictured is the Hunter watch at £99, retro in style reminiscent of the 1960s. Its square face comes in a white or antique finish with a second hand set in a stainless steel case. Here is a quote from Sienna Miller who wore the Hunter watch when she was a guest on Top Gear "Cobra & Bellamy watches are classic, beautiful and affordable, I love all of them". To see the whole Cobra & Bellamy watch collection go to www.cobrabellamywatches.co.uk or call 01736 732112 for further information.

17. The young Swiss jewellery label **elie** created an exclusive, refined, and elegant back jewellery in combination with a bra to wear with backless clothes. All jewellery pieces are handmade in Switzerland and can be customized according to customer wishes. Visit www.elie-jewelry.ch or email info@elie-jewelry.ch

CHEZ TATLER... *Interior Perfection!*

1. Jane Hamilton, portrait and figure sculptor. Her sculptures have energy and pathos; when doing a portrait, whether young or old, she approaches her work with the sensitivity and truthfulness needed for a likeness. To see more of Jane's work, visit www.janehamilton-sculpture.com or call 01295 750636.

2. The Limehouse Lamp Company for over 40 years has produced traditional lighting to grace the finest residences. Re-creating period charm by manufacturing using traditional methods, their handmade collection of lighting is simply stunning. Their 200 page brochure is available by calling 01273 497070 or visit www.limehouselighting.com to view their entire range. International calls welcome.

3.The Artist Collection by Jacqui Joseph Designs features exclusive homewares and gifts that are not only stylish but of the highest quality and proudly made in Great Britain, featuring exquisite artworks. The Artist Collection includes stunning microfibre suede Cushions, Wallcoverings, Serving Trays, Wash/Clutch bags and Lipstick/Coin purses, Everyday Totes, Trinket boxes, Aprons, Coasters, Placemats, Kitchen Boards and Lampshades. Tatler readers can enjoy a 20% discount on all orders using code TATLERJJ1 (ends September 2015), to view the collection visit www.jacquijoseph.com

4. Millbrook Beds. It's your best kept secret in the bedroom. Traditionally handmade in the UK for almost 70 years, Millbrook Beds are made to order using only the finest, locally-sourced, natural materials to offer the ultimate in sleep luxury. www.millbrook-beds.co.uk email enquiry@millbrookbeds.co.uk or call 0845 373 1111.

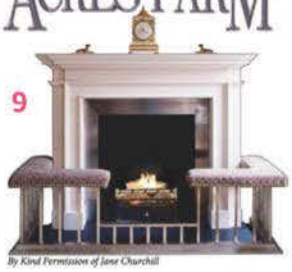
5. Must-Have Bins present a stunning collection of hard to find essential home accessories – baskets, tissues and jardinières, all hand made with exceptional attention to detail – they are just too good to hide. Call 08455 280932 for their fabulous 2015 brochure or visit www.musthavebins.co.uk A bespoke service and international shipping is available.

6. English Salvage. This striking 18th century rectangular lead cistern, features beautiful twin cartouche panels centred by figures depicting the seasons to the front and sides, including the date 1767 and the initials JW. This piece is believed to be originally from Chambers Court, (a substantial Grade II listed country house) Gloucestershire. Visit www.englishsalvage.co.uk for more information and products or call 01568 616205.

GRENADIER

7. Firelighting Without Fuss. The award winning Grenadier Electric Firelighter is guaranteed to light all types of solid fuels fast. No home with a traditional fire should be without this modern firelighter. Order yours today at www.grenadier.co.uk or call 01829 741649.

ACRES FARM



By Kind Permission of Jane Churchill

8. Love & Light have launched their ranges of luxury bespoke, handcrafted and hand painted lamps. "Twist of Copper", part of a contemporary metallic range, uses weathered, polished or patina'd coppers to create this stunning collection of lamps. View the full range at www.loveandlight.me.uk contact them at loveandlight.me.uk@gmail.com or call Nicky on 07990 567572 for more information.

9. Acres Farm have been manufacturing bespoke Club Fenders since 1979. Their collection of traditional, classical and contemporary club fenders are made using up-to-date equipment but the methods of manufacture, selection of the finest materials and emphasis on quality are in the highest tradition of British workmanship. To request a copy of the ACRES FARM brochure to view their enormous range of styles, call +44 (0)118 974 4305 or visit www.acresfarm.co.uk

10. Cameron Design House was founded by designer Ian Cameron, who combines his Finnish heritage and London upbringing to create unique, contemporary and bespoke lighting. Handcrafted from their Primrose Hill (London) studio, Cameron Design House uses a combination of natural and man-made materials to create beautiful pieces boasting strong sculptural aesthetics and conscientious design. To see more of their beautiful range, visit www.camerondesignhouse.com

11. Revival Beds have been handcrafting luxurious beds in their workshops since 1983. There are 18 bed designs in the collection, which are all handmade to order from the finest materials and come with free delivery and installation. Visit www.revivalbeds.co.uk or call 01777 869 669.

12. English Abode. Our fantastic discovery englishabode.com is the go-to website for wonderful homeware and accessories for every English home–be it classic, contemporary, big or small–and for every conceivable budget. Browse their hand-picked selection, from photo frames, cushions and tableware, to designer one-offs, antiques and a collection of gifts for Him, Her and the Little Ones (both two-legged and four-legged.) We recommend you head over to the site immediately–we're totally hooked. Visit www.englishabode.com for more information.

13. Split Pop, by **Robert Perez**, was an exercise to simplify intentions and explore what's possible with a narrow set of parameters. It evolved into a complex dialogue between visual elements investigating ideas of math, philosophy, physics, cosmology, spirituality and nature. Series of 100 paintings in 10 segments of 10 paintings that each conclude a studied process. Original and Limited Edition Prints. Visit www.artistrobertperez.com Email info@artistrobertperez.com Image: "Split Pop 10", 2014.

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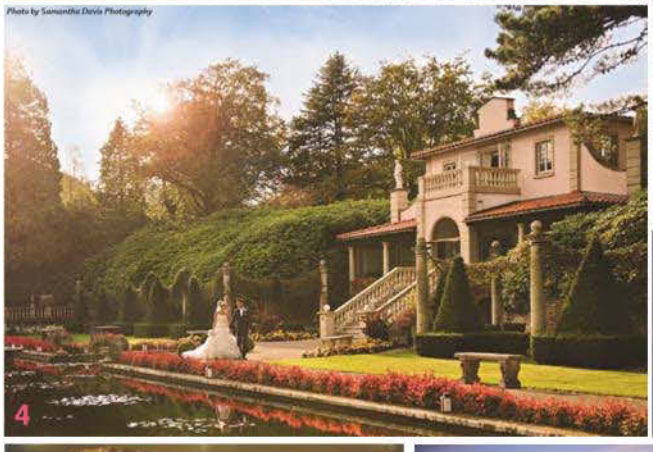
TYING THE KNOT WITH TATLER... *Wed in Bliss!*

Photo by Samantha Davis Photography



1. Hedsor House is an undiscovered gem of venue just moments from London. This secret hideaway is where the stars of the world like to party and one of the hottest venues today. Secluded in the privacy of its own beautiful 100 acre estate, Hedsor is the ultimate setting for spectacular events. Just 30 minutes from the West End, Hedsor is one venue not to be missed. Call 01628 819050 email info@hedsor.com or visit www.hedsor.com

2. Extra Special Touch specialise in vintage inspire wedding and bridal accessories. Their personalised and monogram napkins are a must-have! Email Heidi@extraspecialtouch.co.uk or visit www.extraspecialtouch.co.uk

3. Based in Provence they specialise in creating the perfect event soundtrack for luxury UK and Anglophone events in the South of France. By using **UK DJs Abroad** you can ensure that your guests enjoy all the benefits of the Cote d'Azur (sun, scenery and sophistication) and still party the night away to all their favourite tracks. For more information call Lisa on 0033 6 79 15 44 46 or visit www.ukdjsabroad.com

4. The Italian Villa. The only venue of its kind in the UK, and recently voted the Most Popular Wedding Venue in the World at the International Wedding Expert Awards, the stunning Italian Villa offers 3 floors of sensational suites, against the dramatic backdrop of 10 acres of manicured gardens and featuring exquisite cuisine by Michelin-trained chefs. Visit www.the-italian-villa.co.uk or call 01202 816074.

5. Celebrate your wedding at London's Secret Garden, **Chelsea Physic Garden,** where each celebration is as unique as its changing seasons. Exclusive use of this historic setting in lush surroundings makes it the ideal choice for your unforgettable day. Contact hire@chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk for more information or ring Suzanne on 020 7349 6461.

6. Inspired by the off-beat, wild and whimsical. **Forage and Blossom** creates bespoke Wedding and Event floral designs with an organic approach. Sourcing mainly from their cutting garden they embrace seasonality and depth with scents, herbs and texture. Visit www.forageandblossom.com or email hello@forageandblossom.com

7. Crockery and Cupcakes specialises in fabulous luxurious vintage fine English china, cake-stands and glassware for hire for weddings and events. Including delicious cupcakes, they will add a modern vintage touch and inspire the perfect wedding tea party experience. This London based company will sprinkle your wedding with vintage glamour. Call 07984 039103 or visit www.crockeryandcupcakes.co.uk Email crockeryandcupcakes@gmail.com Instagram @crockeryandcupcakes Twitter @crockerycupcake

8. Sax & Honey is an award-winning duo of tenor saxophone and female vocals with more than 15 years' experience in the UK wedding industry. The duo provide stylish jazz and popular music for daytime receptions and sit-down meals and an extensive repertoire of upbeat dance music for evening parties. Contact Lynden and Andrea on 07818 404552 to talk over your plans for your event or visit their website www.saxandhoney.com Voted Best Entertainment Company, Perfect Wedding Awards 2011.

9. Down Hall Hotel is one of England's most established country house hotels. Dating back to 1322, this impressive Italianate mansion is a historic setting. The hotel's luxury interiors, ornate ceilings and abundance of natural daylight make for an experience like no other. Visit www.downhall.co.uk or call 01279 731441.

10. In admiration of her beauty and in recognition of her fame **Cutty Sark** has been preserved for the nation and is a truly iconic riverside venue for civil ceremonies and receptions. Create your exclusive wedding on board this beautifully restored Victorian clipper. Call 020 8312 8517, email events@rmg.co.uk or visit www.rmg.co.uk/cuttysark/venue-hire

11. The Queen's House, celebrating its 400th Anniversary, steeped in history and Palladian romance, is a luxurious wedding venue for civil ceremonies and receptions. This former royal palace offers a variety of spaces for you to create your perfect wedding. Call 020 8312 8517, e-mail: events@rmg.co.uk or visit www.rmg.co.uk/hospitality

12. Pepper's Marquees. Whatever you can imagine for your special function from an Egyptian theme, a traditional Ballroom setting or a transparent roof for that true Al fresco touch... Pepper's Marquees have it covered... beautifully! Call 01405 860249 or visit www.peppersmarquees.co.uk Photo courtesy of Neal Murray Photography and Castle Fraser.

13. Your wedding isn't just about one day; it's about portraying your story as a couple. **Weddings By Emily Charlotte** work with you to create a chic and elegant wedding day that represents your personalities. Based in Brighton, just an hour from London, Weddings By Emily Charlotte provide contemporary planning services for weddings in The South of England and in Italy. Contact details: weddings@emilycharlotte.co.uk +44 77322 67316. Social media: Facebook.com/weddingsbyemilycharlotte, Instagram: @weddingsbyemilycharlotte, Twitter: @weddingsbyec

14. Ann Guise Silk Wedding Veils . T specialise in luxurious silk wedding veils handmade to order using the highest quality silk fabric, lace and custom embroidery. Visit www.silkveil.com or contact Ann on 02920 750723.

15. Kate Alban Davies Floral Design creates beautiful wedding flowers that are tailored to your individual requirements. Whatever your vision the floral arrangements are designed to complement your chosen venue and capture the mood of your wedding. With attention to every detail, these talented florists will produce the perfect setting for your special day. Visit www.katealbandavies.com for more information and to make an appointment call 020 8354 1360 or email info@katealbandavies.com

16. Faust's Potions at weddings. A favour remembered. Faust's Awake and Asleep Potions come with complimentary favour wrapping while stocks last. Enjoy the wedding festivities to the max! From £2.20 each. Call 020 3239 4633 or visit www.faustspotions.com

17. Lisa von Hallwyl Millinery is a couture brand based in the Cotswolds. LVH designs for celebrities and special events to make you feel special and look fabulous.Created to turn heads and wow the crowds. To book an appointment visit www.lisavonhallwylmillinery.com or 07738 223791.

18. For 700 years **Ripley Castle** has been the quintessential essence of Yorkshire romance. From the moment you arrive the scene is set for a truly enchanting and unique experience. From elegance and grandeur, to the historic cosy intimacy of the private family rooms, Ripley Castle will exceed all your expectations to ensure your dream wedding is here. Call 01423 770152 or email weddings@ripleycastle.co.uk for further information.

BEAUTY BOOTY... *Boost your Assets!*

1. Arts & Scents is a new and exciting german company creating unique perfumes. Unusual combinations of rare natural materials and fragrance oils result in astonishing effects in every scent composition that they offer. Arts & Scents produce their perfumes in the traditional European perfumers method, which enables them to create truly outstanding scent bases. The use of special plant material, melted with emergent fragrance compounds, build the heart of their perfumes. Visit www.artsandscents.com to view their collections.

2. Apple & Bears. Natural and Organic Body Care Collection is available in four exhilarating natural fragrances. Luxurious Body Wash and stimulating Body Silk Lotion.Retail from £18 – £25 visit www.appleandbears.com or call +44 (0)1784 483886

3. Keep skin supple and hydrated this summer with **AA Skincare Essentials'** Mint and Dead Sea Salt Face Mask – made with pure essential oils and naturally enriched Dead Sea salts to remove impurities, moisturise and soothe skin. Mint calms and cools, leaving skin soft and refreshed. All this for just £7.95 for 100ml. To order visit www.aaskincare.co.uk or Tel: 01179 087770. Apply offer code TATLER20 for 20% discount on one transaction until 31st October 2015. UK customers only.

4. Contour Cosmetics' luxury contour set is uniquely formulated to provide flawless coverage and a perfected complexion. Highlight and sculpt your favourite features with their famous contour kit, loved by professional make-up artists and contour queens across the world. Visit www.contourcosmetics.co.uk and USE PROMO CODE: TATLER10 For 10% OFF YOUR ORDER!

5. Zuzka Natural Beauty is an exclusive botanical skincare range designed by herbalist and beauty specialist Susan Kohutova. Zuzka's "Ocean Spa Cool Blue Contour Day Cream" is a refreshing, light textured, easily absorbed cream, rich in sea minerals to greatly hydrate the skin and reduce the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles. Peps up tired looking skin. Smells divine. Suitable for all skin types. Available from www.zuzkanaturalbeauty.co.uk

6 . Pevonia's silky-smooth Hydrating Sunscreen SPF30, is an easy to apply greaseless emulsion, providing immediate protection with its dual-phase protective action. Reflecting and absorbing the sun's harmful rays, it safeguards the skin from UVA and UVB rays, effectively counteracting sun and ageing damage. Priced at £40, available from Pevonia UK 01449 727000 or visit www.pevonia.co.uk

7. Mai Couture; the modern beauty essential. An innovative and fresh take on traditional makeup; these gorgeous, luxurious Papiers help you achieve a flawless, glowing complexion in seconds!! The wonderful 'Glow-Geous Trio' (two bronzers and highlighter) and fabulous 'Like A Diamond Trio' (highlighter with two blushers) contain three of Mai Couture's best-loved Papiers in one convenient, elegant and perfectly portable booklet... Instant beauty; anywhere! Available at Beauty Mart now. Visit www.thisisbeautymart.com For queries, contact Fenella Kayser at fenella@therosebudcompany.com

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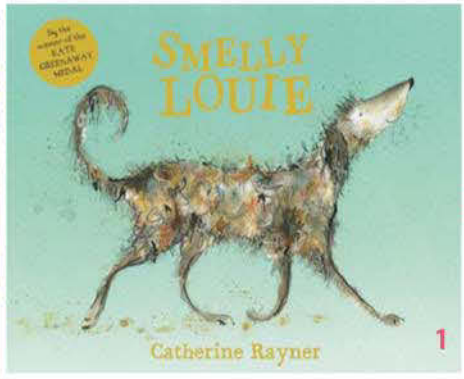

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1. Smelly Louie by Catherine Rayner. The smelliest dog you'll ever meet! Louie the dog has just had a bath – and he is NOT happy about it. He smells all wrong. Determined to get his Special Smell back, he goes on a hunt for it and meets lots of smelly things along the way – a fox, some interesting dustbins and a marvellously muddy puddle to roll in. Will he ever get his smell back? And, more importantly, will he be able to keep it this time... ? Visit www.catherinerayner.co.uk or www.panmacmillan.com for more information. £6.99 Paperback.

2. Beibamboo offers timeless and season-less organic bamboo/cotton baby wear. Their designs have adjustable sizes giving them long usage, have minimal seams and all labels are on the outside of the garment. For more information on these award winning designs, visit www.beibamboo.com or enquire at info@beibamboo.com

2

Knightsbridge Nannies

3

3. Knightsbridge Nannies. One of London's premier nanny agencies. Specialising and providing professional nannies for families who are matched with utmost care. The nannies are thoroughly checked and screened. For further information, contact Julie Bremner at Knightsbridge Nannies, New Kings House, 136–144 New Kings Road, London SW6 4LZ. Call 020 7610 9232 or visit www.knightsbridgenannies.co.uk

4

4. Poppet In The Post specialises in ethical baby gifts and luxury hampers, all meticulously chosen for their unique credentials..."we have a conscience, each design-led product has been carefully selected to make our world a better place..." Email hello@poppetinthepost.co.uk or visit www.poppetinthepost.co.uk

5. It's never too early for your child to become a trendsetter, and **Lili Collection** will make for the most fashionable of tots. Their gorgeous range of moccasins have been designed with both comfort and style in mind and are perfect for all seasons. Peruse the collection at www.lilicollection.com or call +1 310 210 6233. Photo credit: Missy Moo Studio.

5

6. The Traditional Children Company. Beautifully crafted and coordinated classic clothes, shoes and accessories reminiscent of times gone by for babies and children. See their wonderful new range of smocked dresses, romper suits, swimming sets and hair bows in all sorts of colours, shapes and sizes now online. To find out more, visit www.thetraditionalchildrencompany.co.uk or call 07795 347276.

6

7. Patrizia Wigan Designs especially focuses on family occasions such as weddings, christenings and parties covering the younger and more senior generations. Visit www.patriziawigan.com to view the collection or email info@patriziawigan.com for further information.

8. Winner of Best Children's Food Brand in 2014, **MINISCOFF** is made with great quality and organic ingredients, only using the best of British meat from high welfare farms. Really, really tasty! (Suitable from 12mths to 8+) Exclusively available from www.ocado.com for more information email angus@miniscoff.co.uk or visit www.miniscoff.co.uk

9. At **Bilibib**, a Mum and Dad team create handmade bandana bibs using only high quality materials. Their classic designs are super absorbent with an adjustable size that fits children aged 4 months to 3 years. To check out their extensive range, visit www.bilibib.com or call 01733 327929.

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10. Gigi Brooks is a luxury children's lifestyle brand encompassing furniture, interiors, gifts, clothing, accessories, a bespoke design service, and everything in between. The exclusive Cecilia CuddleRide (£357) has been lovingly handmade and is sumptuously plush, making it perfect for your little ones next adventure! Visit www.gigibrooks.com or call 01507 608 251.

11. The **Little Remix** Fall/ Winter 2015 collection embodies the life of a cowgirl. Creative Director Charlotte Eskildsen has reinvented original Western wear, designed with an independent girl in mind, who has no qualms in standing up for herself and her friends. So howdy and giddy up, Little Remix invites all independent young women to embody the persona of the Wild West. UK stockists include Harrods. Visit www.designersremix.com to find out more. Follow Little Remix on Instagram @littleremixofficial

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12. Ivoy Paris is a children's couture house. Our royal wardrobe enchants and fulfills young princesses' dreams. Sparkling gala dresses, sweet Duchesses, high-end Marie-Antoinette gowns, luxury special occasion dresses are now available at Harrods Toy Kingdom or online at www.ivoyparis.com

13. Burlington Nannies is one of the top London Nanny Agencies, specialising in the introduction of professional Nannies, Governesses and Maternity Nurses to families in London and Overseas. Their success is down to the professional and personal service that they offer their clients and candidates. With a commitment to sourcing only the best professionals to assist in the care, development and education of children, contact Natasha on 020 7821 9911 or visit www.burlingtonnannies.com for more information.

Burlington Nannies

13

TATLER'S EDUCATION GUIDE

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WIMBLEDON
Sunday Times Independent Secondary School of the Year

11+ open evening
Wednesday, 9th September · 6pm – 7.45pm

16+ open evening
Wednesday, 16th September · 6pm – 8.15pm

Whole school open morning
Saturday, 19th September · 9am – 12.30pm

Senior school (boys 11-18, girls 16-18)
Junior school (boys 7-13) recruiting at 7+ 8+ 9+ & 10+

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A BRIGHTON COLLEGE SCHOOL

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- Located just off the M23, close to Gatwick

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Tatler Schools Guide 2015

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Open Mornings
Every Saturday morning by appointment

Family friendly boarding in Berkshire countryside
admissions@bradfieldcollege.org.uk • Tel: 0118 964 4516

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Open Morning
Saturday
26th September 2015
@ 10.00am

To reserve a place contact the Admissions Office
Email: admissions@tudorhallschool.com
Telephone: 01295 756259
@TudorHallSchool /TudorHallSchool www.tudorhallschool.com
A registered charity Reg No 1042783

SYDENHAM HIGH SCHOOL
gdst Girls' Day School Trust

Open Events
19 Sept (Senior & Sixth Form) 10am-1pm
26 Sept (Pre-Prep & Prep) 10am-1pm
See our website for Oct and Nov dates

020 8557 7004 admissions@syd.gdst.net
www.sydenhamhighschool.gdst.net

15 & 19 Westwood Hill, London, SE26 6BL

To advertise contact 020 7499 9080 ext 3705

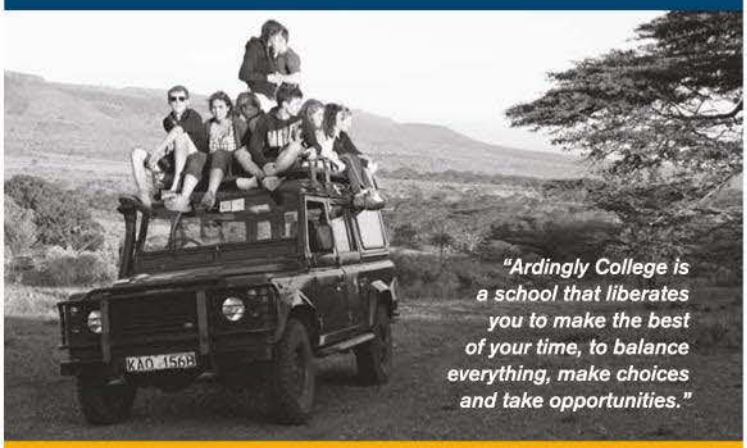
Cranmore School

Open Mornings:
25 September, 3 October, 4 March, 5 March.
www.cranmoreprep.co.uk

OPEN DAYS 2015

Sixth Form Open Morning
Saturday 26 September, 9.15am

Senior School & Sixth Form Open Morning
Saturday 10 October 9.15am



ARDINGLY College

Registration required at
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Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH17 6SQ
www.ardingly.com

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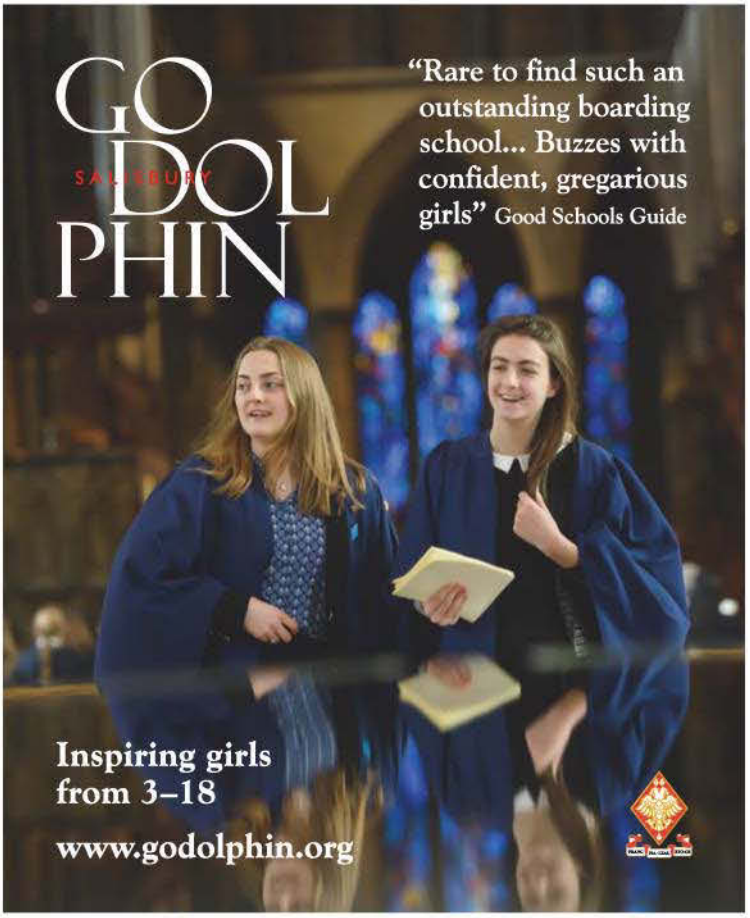
"Rare to find such an outstanding boarding school... Buzzes with confident, gregarious girls" Good Schools Guide



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www.godolphin.org

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Senior School & Sixth Form

Join us for our

Open Morning

Saturday 3 October at 10.45am

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www.lancingcollege.co.uk

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A co-educational IAPS Prep and Pre-Prep School
for children from 3 to 13 with its own
Oak Tree Nursery for children from 2½ to 3½

OPEN MORNINGS
Wednesday, 14th October 2015
Thursday, 15th October 2015

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enquiries@devonshirehouseprepschool.co.uk
www.devonshirehouseschool.co.uk

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Caring | Down-to-Earth | Vibrant

Open Morning – Friday 9th October 2015

www.greatwalstead.co.uk | 01444 483528

GREAT WALSTEAD SCHOOL

Open Mornings

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Senior School
(HMC 11–18 day and boarding)
Saturday 26th September 2015
T: 01622 845206 | E: websterk@svs.org.uk

Preparatory School
(Nursery to age 11)
Friday 2nd October 2015
T: 01622 842117 | E: leckiea@svs.org.uk

Sixth Form
Saturday 3rd October 2015
T: 01622 845206 | E: websterk@svs.org.uk

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www.svs.org.uk

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HAMPTON, MIDDLESEX

www.lehs.org.uk

"Pupils' achievements are exceptional"

ISI REPORT 2013

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email: registrar@lehs.org.uk

Head Mistress: Mrs Heather Hanbury, MA Edinburgh, MSc Cantab
Contact the Registrar or visit **www.lehs.org.uk**

Registered Charity no 1130254

DENMEAD SCHOOL
PART OF THE HAMPTON SCHOOL TRUST • IAPS INDEPENDENT
DAY SCHOOL FOR BOYS AGED 3 - 11 & GIRLS AGED 3 - 7 YEARS

OPEN MORNINGS

Friday 9 October 2015: Pre-Prep School: 9.15am - 11.00am
Prep School: 10.00am - 12.00 noon

Friday 5 February 2016: Pre-Prep School: 9.15am - 11.00am
Prep School: 10.00am - 12.00 noon

STATE OF THE ART NEW PREP BUILD

Expected completion date February 2016

Our innovative Prep School facilities will provide pupils with an outstanding learning environment that utilises the latest technology. Denmead School has very close links with Hampton School providing the opportunity for assured places to Hampton.

Success at Denmead is based upon personal achievement rather than the pursuit of narrowly defined targets.

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www.denmeadschool.org.uk admissions@denmeadschool.org.uk

Denmead Pre-Prep School, 41-43 Wensleydale Road, Hampton, Middlesex TW12 2LP
Denmead Prep School, Gloucester Road, Hampton, Middlesex TW12 2UQ

IBSTOCK PLACE SCHOOL

Wednesday 16 September
5.00-7.00pm
SENIOR SCHOOL OPEN EVENING

Saturday 19 September
9.00am-12.30pm
SENIOR SCHOOL OPEN MORNING

Thursday 24 September
6.00-8.00pm
SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

CLARENCE LANE, LONDON, SW15 5PY
For further information please contact the Registrar, Miss Catherine Voysey
Tel: 020 8392 5803 email: registrar@ibstockplaceschool.co.uk www.ibstockplaceschool.co.uk

To advertise contact 020 7499 9080 ext 3705

WALTHAMSTOW HALL
SEVENOAKS KENT

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Open Morning 26th September

"Pupils achieve excellent standards in their work and activities", *ISI, Jan 2014*

Whitgift.

One of Britain's finest independent day and boarding schools for boys aged 10-18

WHITGIFT

OPEN MORNING | SATURDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2015
OPEN EVENING | TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2015
SIXTH FORM AND BOARDING | BY APPOINTMENT

Further information on visiting Whitgift can be found at www.whitgift.co.uk/opendays

admissions@whitgift.co.uk
+44 (0)20 8633 9935

Haling Park, South Croydon, CR2 6YT, United Kingdom

'Some might say it's just bricks and mortar. Others may say it's just a school. But Whitgift is so much more than that'
Old Whitgiftian (2006–2014)

OPEN DAYS

Saturday 10th October 2015 9.45am - 12.00 noon
Tuesday 20th October 2015 Sixth Form - 5.00pm
Saturday 16th January 2016 9.45am - 12.00 noon
Closing date for applications Monday 18th January 2016

Telephone 0121 472 1834 • www.kehs.org.uk
No.1 School in the Midlands Sunday Times 2013

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St Catherine's, Bramley | Day, full & weekly boarding | GSA School 900 girls 4-18 years

weekly boarding ■ adj.

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www.stcatherines.info

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& Sat 10th Oct
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- Boarding and Flexi Boarding for boys and girls aged 7-18
- Excellent academic results
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2 October 2015

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Caring and inspiring atmosphere
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26 September 2015
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All girls, ages 11-18
700 acres in Surrey
35 minutes from Central London
100% 'excellent' in every category
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Friday 18th September
Whole School Open Evening
Thursday 8th October
Whole School Open Morning
Saturday 10th October

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e: admissions@badmintonschool.co.uk | t: 0117 905 5271 badmintonschool.co.uk

Open Day : 12 September, 9.30am-12.30pm
Sixth Form Open Evening: 23 September, 5.30-7pm

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www.queenswood.org
admissions@queenswood.org
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gdst Girls' Day School Trust

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info@*forest*.org.uk

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e: registrar@cumnor.co.uk
w: www.cumnor.co.uk

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KNIGHTSBRIDGE

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Our open evening includes talks given by the Headmistress, tours of the school with our pupils, and the opportunity to speak with our academic and admissions staff.

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www.morehouse.org.uk

morehouseschool @morehouseschool

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TATLER'S EDUCATION GUIDE

HH

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www.horrishill.com

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Thursday 15 October 9:30 - until noon
Thursday 26 November 9:30 - until noon

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Weston Rhyn, Oswestry, Shropshire SY11 3EW

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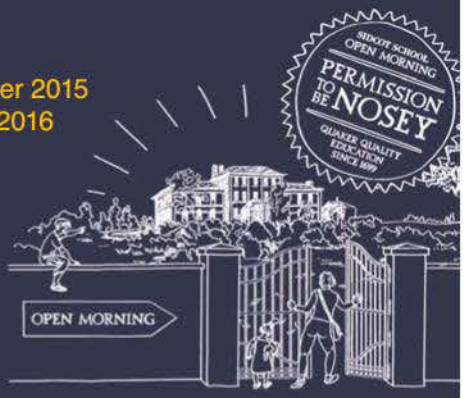
Friday 29 January 2016
9am – noon

RSVP to Sidcot at sidcot.org.uk/contact or 01934 845236.



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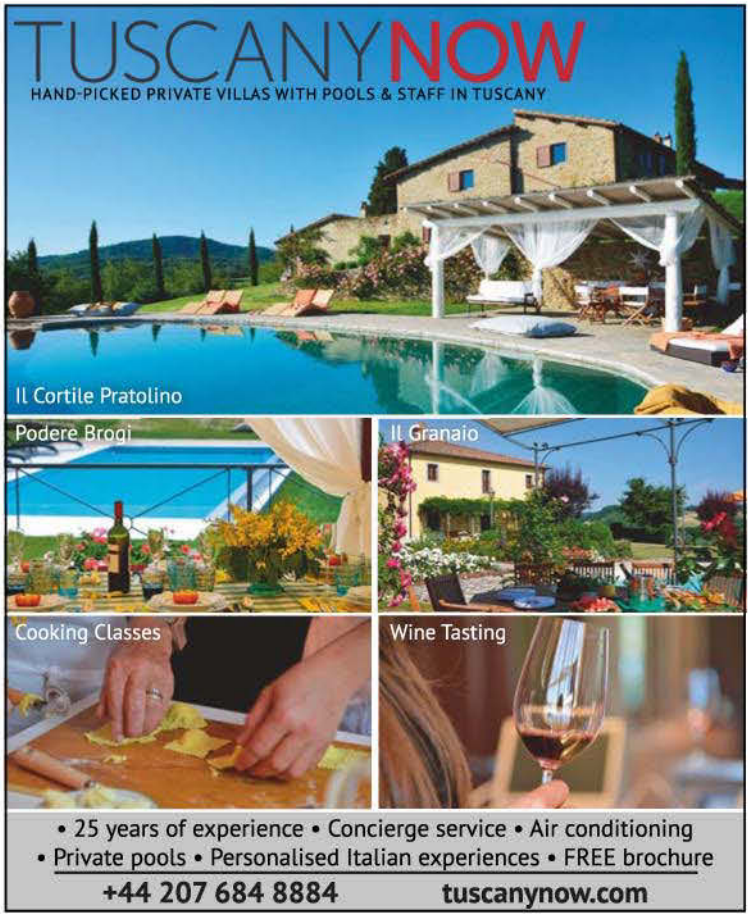

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'LET IT GROW!' PAGE 142

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PHOTOGRAPH: DAMON HEATH

THIS IS THE PAGE YOU'RE LOOKING FOR
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 135

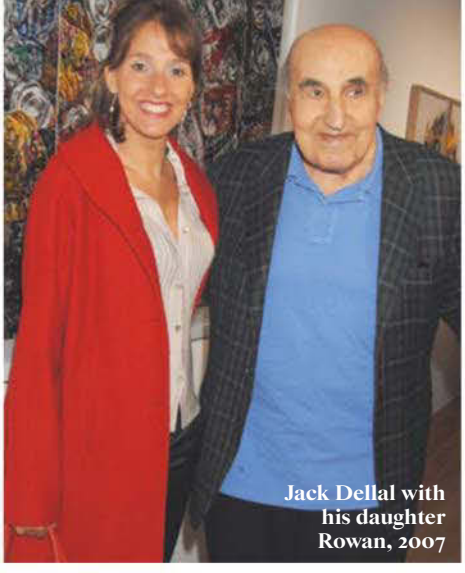
[Tooth suggested that might amount to £200m. Mr Justice Mostyn found that Ruanne and Jack very nearly settled for £28.5m in 2008]. He said it would be 18 months of litigation, possibly. I was not prepared to put Jack through the stress of that at his age. I had to weigh up my feelings of insecurity against the fact that I loved him and wanted to trust him – and I did trust him.' So they remained together, in that large house in Regent's Park.

But however complicated their relationship, one thing was clear: Dellal had money, plenty of it. He told Ruanne he had a 'secret stash', if he ever needed it. She believes it was £50m, which chimes with evidence given by James Woolf, Dellal's long-term associate, in the recent High Court hearing. Dellal, he said, had £50m in cash 'lying around, doing nothing'.

So where is the allegedly missing money? From the evidence given in court, Dellal used a company called Tatich Financing Inc, registered in Panama, to do a lot of his deals. He also had money in trusts. Ruanne believes control of the money was passed to his family, to exclude her from the scale of provision to which she says she was entitled as a wife. 'I am not desperate for more money,' she says. 'But I am angry. Two days – *two days* – after Jack died, a FedEx van arrived at my door, containing many boxes full of documents and papers relevant to me, the children and our domestic life with Jack. There was no agenda, no explanation as to how our lives all worked, just the papers.'

This was, she felt, a signal to her, a signal that she was being cut adrift from the rest of the family, because until then the Dellal family office – 'the Firm', as Jack called it – had always handled her affairs. 'Although I have a university degree, I had not worked outside the home for 25 years and had no experience in the business world or in running our domestic administration. Jack did not like me involved, so our domestic administration took place from his office. Our lives were complicated, with three homes to run and staff, and I had no knowledge or experience of how it all worked. Now I was on my own [...] I was completely alone and in the dark. I can only think now, that was how Jack wanted it. And given what has happened in the last two years, it is probably how the rest of the family wanted it as well.'

Six months after Jack's death, Ruanne adds, 'Guy called me to say he had sold the villa [Cumberlege] and I should arrange for my furniture to be collected. I still don't have that furniture and we no longer have our lovely French home.'


Jack Dellal with his daughter Rowan, 2007

As she speaks of her deteriorating relationship with Dellal's family, it becomes clear that while the court case concerns matters of business and of money, it is also intensely personal. 'I nursed Jack; the children and I were with him right to the end. He would call for me four or five times a night. Although he had a carer, he wanted me with him. I adored him; I trusted him. I was loyal and faithful for 25 years and I did not deserve to be treated the way I have been treated.'

Ruanne believes Dellal arranged for his money to be moved out of her reach, and she has a document in her possession that, she says, shows he had precisely these same intentions when he married his first wife, Zehava Helmer. In his judgment, Mr Justice Mostyn refers to the document, a letter written by Dellal to his then business partner, Len Brown, just before his marriage to Helmer in 1952.

'I'm still mostly in the dark as to how the whole enterprise worked and where the money came from to fund our lives'

Mr Justice Mostyn noted: 'In it, he stated, "Please see to it that all my possessions in banks, etc and shares in (Allied Commercial) etc (go) to my sisters and their children, and mother (Charlotte Dellal) and the most Zehava receives is £1,000... This may sound a strange request. But DO IT."' The judge added: 'This is relied on by the claimant as showing that an abiding concern of Jack's was to favour his own blood relations over those he happened to marry.' This letter was not considered to be valuable evidence by lawyers representing Guy Dellal and the other defendants. They argued before the judge that Ruanne had no prospect of winning her case, not least because she was already rich and a court was unlikely to award her any more money. It was for this reason, among others, that they wanted the case thrown out.

The family, however, declined a request from *Tatler* for an interview; Guy Dellal's solicitor, Ramona Mehta at Mishcon de Reya, said she did not think it appropriate for members of the family to talk about the ongoing litigation. But it is clear that a deep gulf now exists between the two sides. We also understand that Guy's side of the family believes Dellal had properly taken care of Ruanne and their children. They cite the fact that Jack settled £10m each on Zack and Catherine via trust funds in 2008. But Ruanne claims this is a fraction of their due.

'I am the victim of a gross injustice,' she says, a touch of stridency in her tone. 'They talk about me inheriting property, art and jewellery and say I should be satisfied with that, but the fact is, they were already mine. I had no intention of litigating, but after Jack's death I was advised by my accountant and tax lawyer that there were "irregularities" and that further investigations were necessary... I'm still mostly in the dark as to how the whole enterprise worked and where the money came from to fund our lives, although on the face of it I inherited all of Jack's estate. I have been advised that what I inherited cannot have been all of Jack's estate.'

So – can she win? Samantha Ewing, an expert on contentious trusts and probate litigation at law firm Thomas Eggar, says: 'A person with personal wealth can apply for further provision from their deceased spouse's estate if they can show the Court that what they were left under a will was insufficient to maintain the lifestyle they previously enjoyed and expected to continue. If Mrs Dellal can show that Mr Dellal disposed of his assets with the intention of defeating her claim for financial provision, the Court is likely to order that some or all those assets be returned to the estate, leaving Mrs Dellal free to continue her claim for further provision.'

Ruanne will do this, although going to law was hardly her dream scenario: 'I never wanted to bring this case. [But] when I looked into where the money was coming from, the mystery became deeper and I was advised to take action. I tried to discuss this with the family to avoid the unpleasantness and expense of litigation, but they have shown no desire to compromise or mediate. We have been totally abandoned and we feel isolated and alone.' A further court hearing this summer may pave the way for a settlement – Ruanne says she is open to making a deal. But as the case drags on and costs mount, some may detect an unhappy whiff of Jarndyce v Jarndyce in Dellal v Dellal. □

PHOTOGRAPH: DESMOND O'NEILL

4

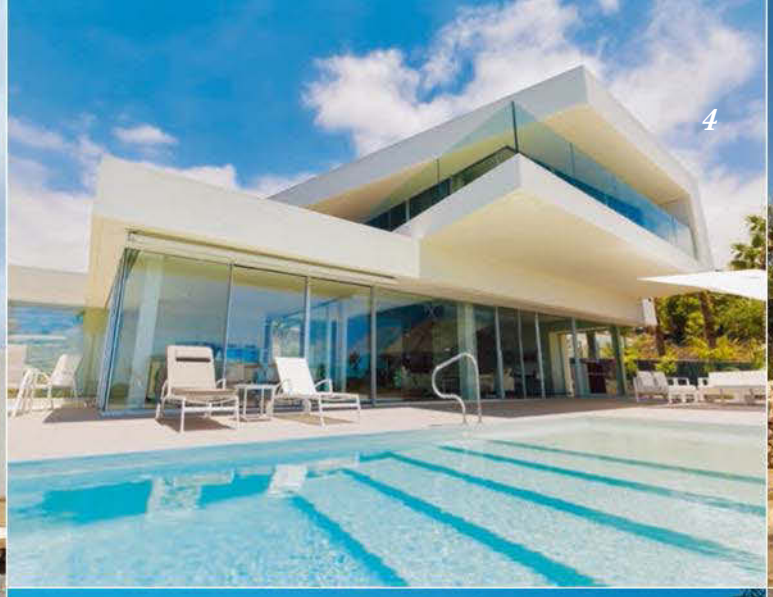
ESCAPE *the jet set… or join it?*

Claire Pilton *goes continental and visits four very different destinations in Europe*

2

Bed is the best place to appreciate the glorious groin- and barrel-vaulted stone ceilings that feature throughout Essentis Properties' masserie (*1*). Just like the original 'fortified farmhouses' that are unique to southern Italy, each slab of stone is hand-cut by artisans. Essentis has its own stonemason academy and quarry of pietra leccese, the fine-grained, creamy-yellow limestone that earned Lecce its sobriquet 'Baroque Florence'. The contrastingly rustic masserie, 'provide a sanctuary for clients who are running away from the jet set. In a century of decadence, one of the privileges of wealth is to enjoy the simple life.' A philosophical opportunist, Francesco Carlucci launched Essentis in 2007, 'just as the crisis started. We've since developed 27 masserie in Puglia, seen our prices triple and secured the area's top €20 million sale. Now Puglia has peaked, we are putting Matera on the map!' Best known for its cave homes that received UNESCO World Heritage status in 1993 and celebrity cachet with Mel Gibson's *The Passion of Christ*, the province stars in *Ben-Hur* next year and is to be 2019's European Capital of Culture. Rated the safest place in Italy, Matera combines a great climate from March to November, good connections to the coast and panoramic views. Incorporating hilltops and olive groves, the Essentis plots, 'are all within 10 minutes of an historic town but in the middle of nowhere'. Priced from €2.5 million, each masserie is bespoke and inherently individual. 'We're not into gated estates. You can sleep with the door open here.'

Awarded UNESCO World Heritage status in 2011, the Serra de Tramuntana mountain range forms the backbone of north-west Mallorca (*2*), extending 55 miles between Andratx and Pollenca. Within a stroll of Pollenca's old town,



on the plain of La Font, an enchanting country house is for sale with nine acres of land. 'You won't find any bling or gold chains here,' says its English owner who, unlike many of the island's second-homeowners, has loved and lived in his idyllic retreat for over 15 years. Dating back to 1873 and restored in 1998, it has eight bedroom suites ('any more and you start running an hotel') and a huge living area with a snug, music room, billiard table and dining room. Outdoors there is a summer kitchen and grill, a choice of terraces, a swimming pool and wonderful mountain views. Engel & Volkers is quoting €4.5 million. Alternatively, a wave away from Lord Lloyd Webber's blue-shuttered homestead in star studded Deia, €5.95 million will buy a modern and immaculate four-bedroom house with a sizeable terrace where the pool, sun deck and veranda all enjoy valley vistas.

The arrival of Graff affords a suitably glittering addition to Limassol Marina (*3*) on the southern coast of Cyprus. Despite the current economic climate, the island's most ambitious, €400-million destination development – which incorporates 13 restaurants, cafés and bars, 40 shops and boutiques, a spa and fitness club – has exchanged contracts on over €170 million of residential property. Of the 121 apartments released to date, 90% have been sold, with a further 41 launching later this year. And 25% of the 74 villas have also exchanged, including the two largest at €15 million apiece. Offering two, three or four bedrooms, the villas start from €1.5 million. Most have a private pool in their garden; all enjoy direct access to the beach or a private berth attached to the property. Located at the crossroads of three continents, Cyprus is the newest superyacht destination in the Eastern Mediterranean. Operated and managed by Camper & Nicholsons, Limassol Marina provides berths for 650 yachts and has already welcomed vessels of 88m and 97m. For those who've left their yacht at home, Sunseeker has also opened here.

Over 180 miles off the coast of North Africa, the European island of Tenerife (*4*) enjoys the best of both continents. Yet despite its super-sunny sub-tropical climate and fiscal advantages, Tenerife may not be somewhere you'd aspire to own a holiday home… until now. The Abama Luxury Residences are being built on a former banana plantation on the island's west coast. The 400-acre resort is already home to the Ritz-Carlton Abama hotel; a five-star edifice with no fewer than 10 fabulous restaurants (two with three Michelin stars between them), seven swimming pools, a spa, beach club, tennis academy with seven courts and a David Thomas-designed 18-hole, par-72 golf course complete with 22 lakes and 25,000 palm trees. Abama property owners will automatically enjoy discounted access to these amenities, in addition to their own private facilities. The opening of an ocean-facing owners' Social Club with a restaurant, swimming pool and gym coincides with the completion and occupation of the first phase of 24 apartments. Built to a Moorish design, the second phase of one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments all have large alfresco terraces and start from €350,000. Alternatively the eight Bellevue Villas are detached turnkey properties with three or four bedrooms and views over the 8th tee to the Atlantic beyond. With four sold, they cost from €1.65 million. For those who would design their own dream retreat, Abama's Custom Villa Plots, which start from €300,000, all sport glorious golf and sea views. The bespoke brigade should allow €2 million plus.

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With seven-bedrooms, swimming pool, tennis court, a large party barn, and a three-bedroom annex for teenager sleepovers, this Grade II listed property is one mile from Overton station in Hampshire.

THE SCHOOL YEAR starts here

The school run takes on a new meaning when children board. *Claire Pilton* looks at property for the world's most generous parents

"Britain is recognised the world over for its education," says Fionnuala Earley of Hamptons' Research who reports, "a correlation between an area's desirability and the existence of good independent schools. According to the ISC, Britain has 24,000 overseas children in education, up from 20,000 in 2007." As competition for places and boarding fees increase, so international buyers fuel the growing number of London-weekenders. "They are looking for a second home within sensible proximity of their children's school and a station for their weekly commute. Ideally it will have all the toys. Tennis courts and swimming pools are high on the wish list; flat lawns are a bonus for croquet or future wedding marquees," observes Charles Chute of Savills Country Department.

CHARMING FOR ***The Cheltenham Ladies' College, Cheltenham College, Dean Close***

If you aspire to a suitably stately seat in the ra-ra-ra county of Gloucestershire, but those boarding fees leave you strapped for cash, Grade II listed Sandywell Park could be just the ticket. Located five miles from the Regency town and its racecourse, Butler Sherborn [01451 830731] is instructed on a £395,000 two/three-bedroom maisonette that enjoys glorious views over 6.5 acres of communal gardens and parkland; residents also share an outdoor heated swimming pool and tennis court.*

BRILLIANT FOR ***Bryanston, Canford, Milton Abbey, Sherborne Girls, Sherborne School***

Wilton Place is set in two-acre gardens in the heart of the pretty Wiltshire market town of Wilton, three miles from Salisbury (Waterloo 83 minutes). Combining convenience and seclusion, the generous eight-bedroom accommodation includes a 12-seater kitchen/breakfast room and a housekeeper's annex. Strutt & Parker [020 7629 7282] is seeking £3.95 million.

TERRIFIC FOR ***Tonbridge, Benenden and Sevenoaks School***

Some three miles from Tonbridge town centre, the school and station [Charing Cross 40 minutes], a seven-bedroom grade II family home is on the market for £1.75 million through Humberts [020 7594 4746]. Within its four acres is a walled garden with a swimming pool and a tennis court that is thoughtfully hidden from the house.

WICKED FOR ***Wycombe Abbey, Radley College, St Edward's Oxford***

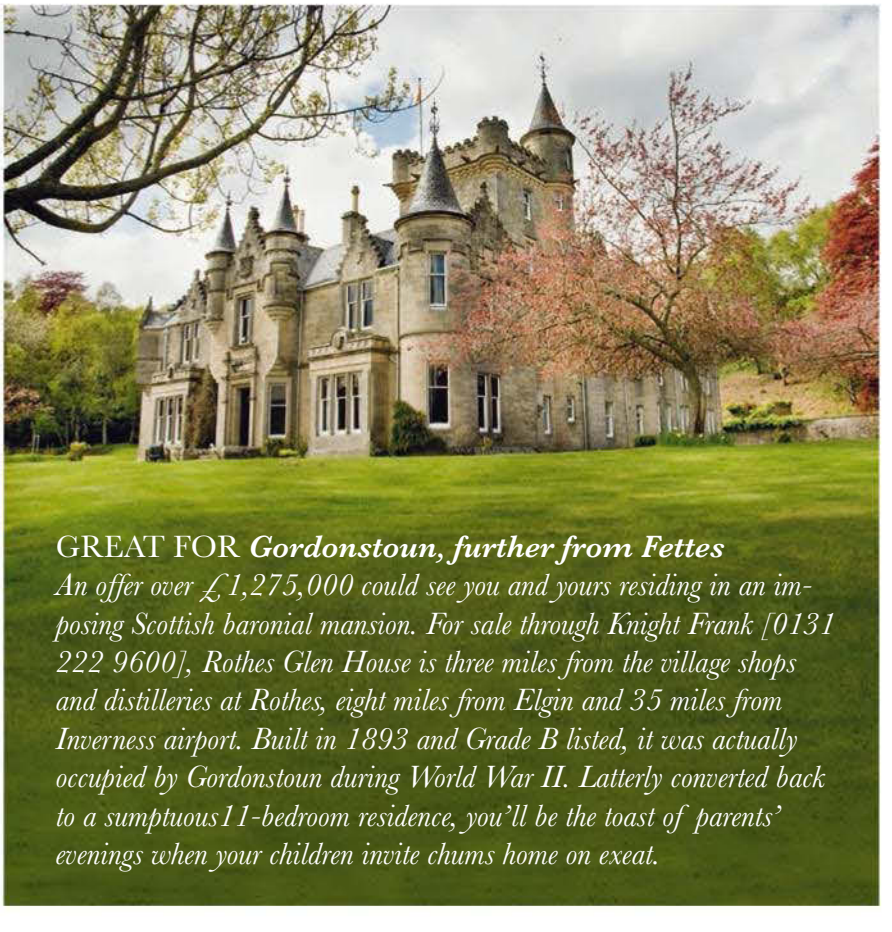
'Lock up your daughters' in this charming moated farmhouse at Broughton, 1.8 miles from Aylesbury, Bucks (Marylebone 60 minutes).

Featuring exposed beams, a bread oven and inglenook fireplace, the grade II former hall house costs £1.1 million through John D Wood [01865 311522]. It has five bedrooms and 2.2-acre grounds with a paddock and stream.

TOP *of the* CLASS

WELL PLACED FOR ***Winchester College, Marlborough, Downe House, St Swithun's School***

This Grade II seven-bedroom house ticks all the boarders' boxes. It has a swimming pool, tennis court, a large party barn, three wine cellars and a three-bedroom annex for teenager sleepovers. Located one mile from Overton station (Waterloo 57 minutes) in Hampshire, it is set in 16 acres of gardens and meadows that afford privacy and peaceful views over the River Test. Yours for £4.85 million through Savills [020 7016 3780].



GREAT FOR ***Gordonstoun, further from Fettes***

An offer over £1,275,000 could see you and yours residing in an imposing Scottish baronial mansion. For sale through Knight Frank [0131 222 9600], Rothes Glen House is three miles from the village shops and distilleries at Rothes, eight miles from Elgin and 35 miles from Inverness airport. Built in 1893 and Grade B listed, it was actually occupied by Gordonstoun during World War II. Latterly converted back to a sumptuous11-bedroom residence, you'll be the toast of parents' evenings when your children invite chums home on exeat.

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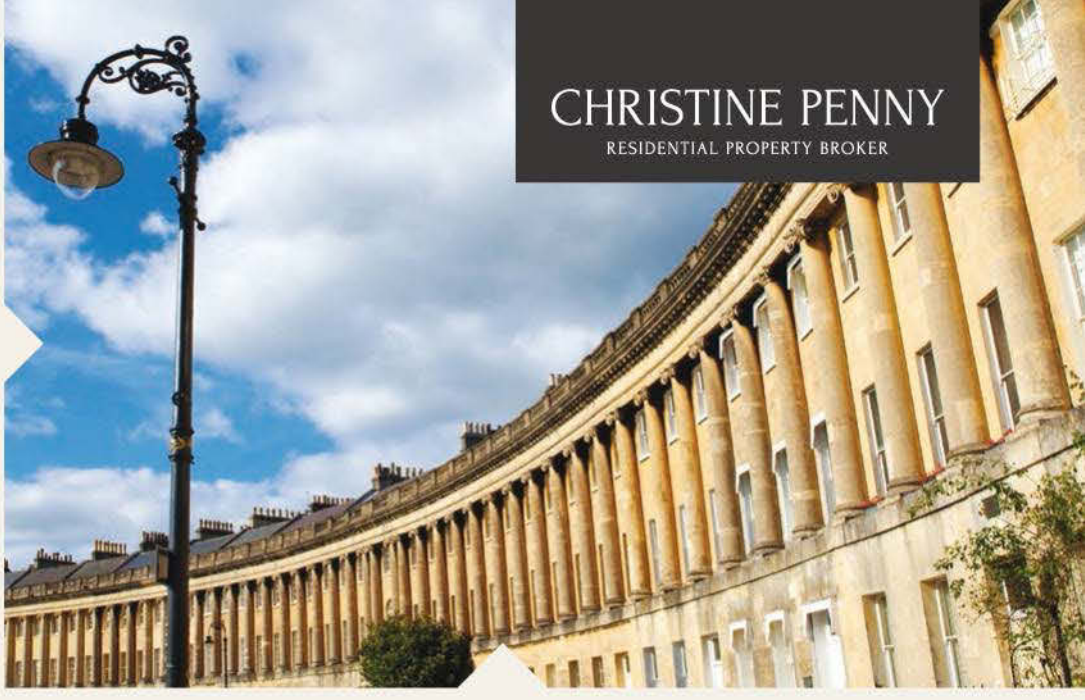

Bath's timeless appeal

After 25 years in the property industry, residential property broker Christine Penny was inspired to launch her own business. Now she successfully helps private clients buy and sell in her home city of Bath. She talks to Lottie Laken about her bespoke property service.

There are lots of property agents out there. Why should people choose Christine Penny?
Making good property choices is important, which is why our approach is based on the big picture. We are motivated by long-term successful relationships, not corporate targets. Our focus is on meeting our clients' needs, a service which doesn't end when a property is bought or sold. We know our market inside out and have an enviable list of quality connections, allowing us to offer clients opportunities before they become public.

Can you describe a typical working day?
Because we provide more than a buying and selling process, every day is different. We usually begin at 6am by contacting our international clients, many of whom are expats. We research the market, arrange meetings with architects and planners, and connect our clients to professionals who advise on tax and financial planning. We visit properties that we have been invited to offer 'quietly', and recommend suitable marketing campaigns. If a client wishes to sell on the open market, we help select the most suitable agent. We plan itineraries for clients visiting Bath, and we manage property for clients in their absence. There is no 9 to 5 and we don't close up shop. In fact most of our business is conducted out of normal office hours.

Many of your clients are high profile individuals. How do you help them maintain privacy?
We hold privacy in the highest regard. Confidentiality is the cornerstone of our success and is a big part of our return business. Most of our buyers prefer to purchase quietly and off the market. We understand this and adhere to a strict code of conduct.

Why buy in Bath?
The list is endless: it can compare to London, it has education, infrastructure, parks, recreation, sports, shopping and restaurants. It has architectural excellence and like-minded people. Bath isn't a recent discovery, its history predates the Romans and it continues to be a vibrant lifestyle destination.

Bath is a popular destination for people moving from London and from overseas. What advice can you give to those looking to relocate to the city?
It's always a joy to show people around this wonderful city and introduce them to the unique architecture and properties. Our advice is get to know your market. A good place to start, that could save time and money, is by contacting us at **www.christinepenny.co.uk**

Why did you become a residential property broker?
I am very passionate about Bath. I am aware of the interest in property. I want to give 100 per cent to 10 people rather than 10 per cent to a 100 people. This business is not just about property, it is primarily about people. That's what we do – we make our clients feel special and valued.

What's your favourite thing about your job?
Two things: the excitement of a new day and the people. Although our business is property, the value of my job comes from the people I meet and the satisfaction of successfully concluding business for them. ◆

For further information, visit www.christinepenny.co.uk

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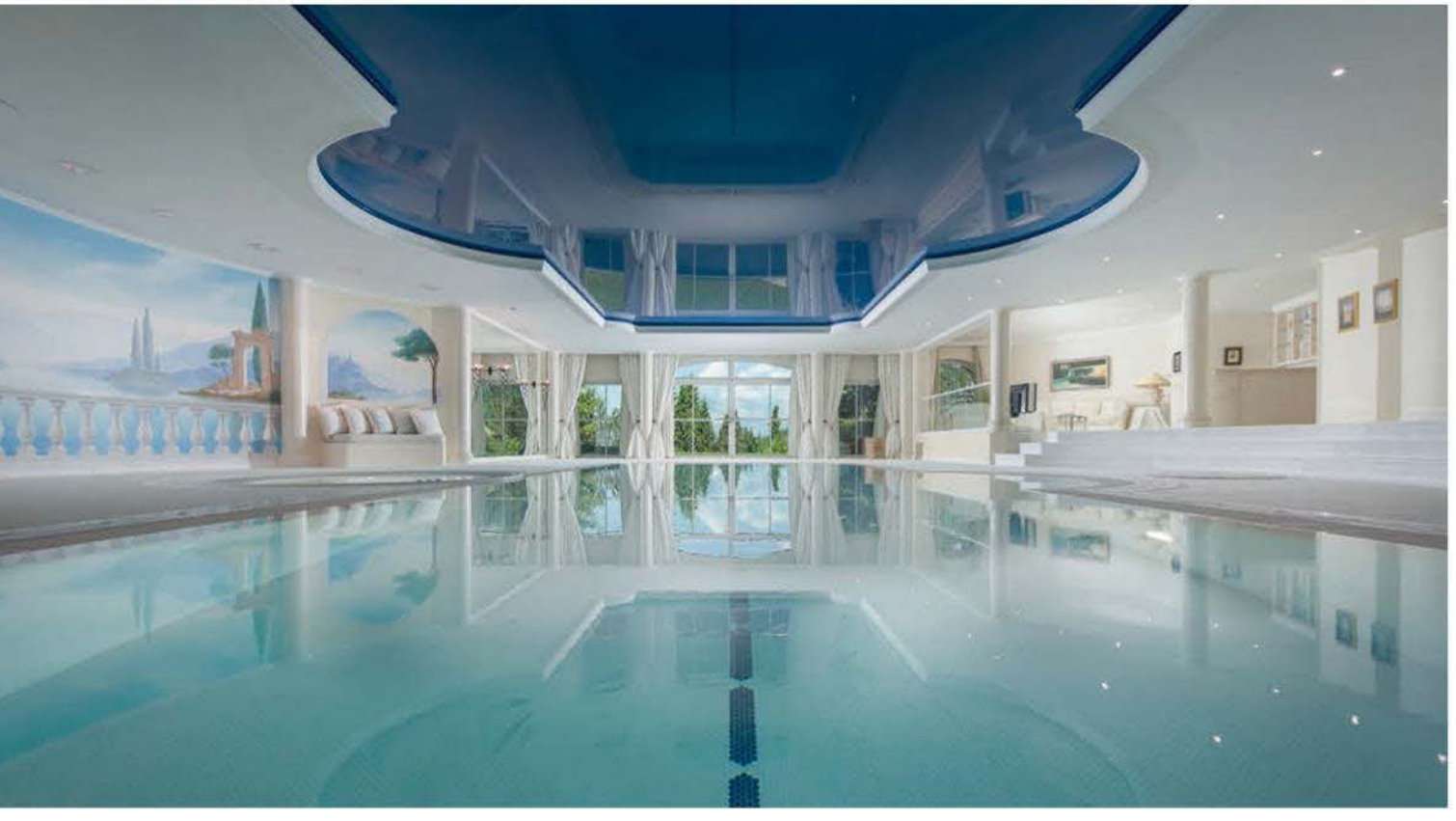

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PROPERTY

NOTEBOOK

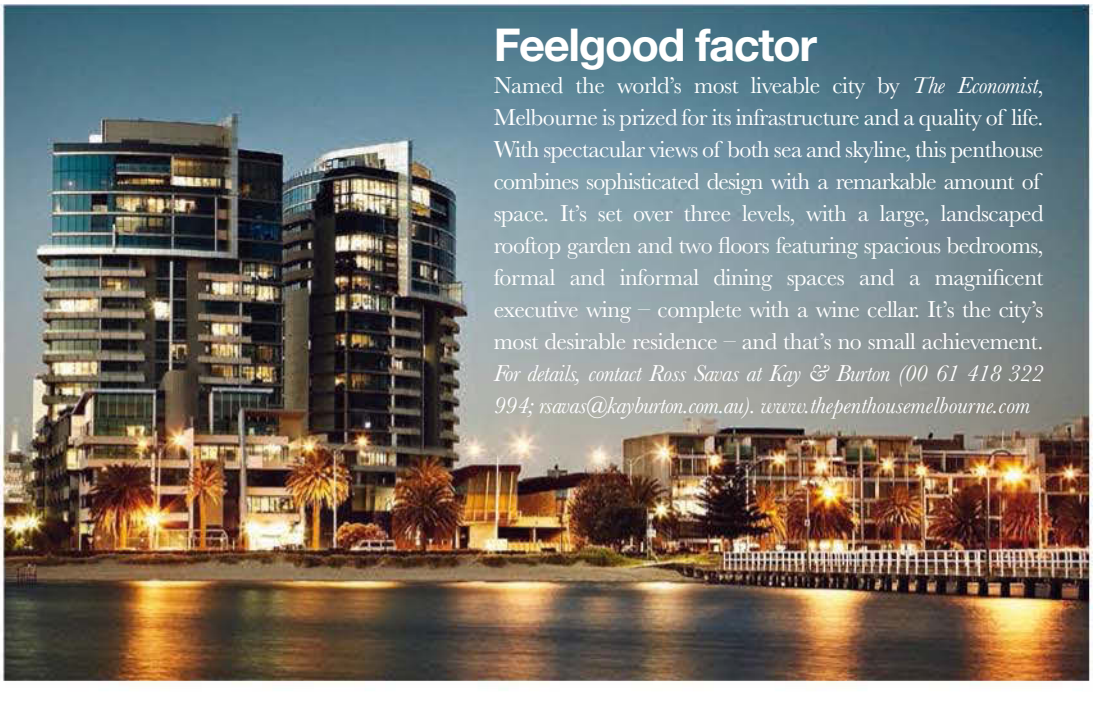
Rosemary Brooke gets the inside track on this month's property highlights

Playing for keeps

Those familiar with international polo will be aware of Ritz-Carlton Residences' involvement with British Polo Day in Morocco, and the event's spectacular location at Jnan Amar Polo Club, close to Marrakech. With construction started on a five-star Ritz-Carlton hotel, there are now opportunities to buy residences on the estate. Priced from £650,000, many look directly onto the polo fields and all come with private pools, terraces and gardens. Ownership provides access to the polo club, along with a host of additional benefits. *For more information, visit www.rcr-marrakech.com*

BIRTH OF A LEGEND

One of Dubai's most luxurious new developments is speeding towards completion. At Living Legends, 80% of the residential units have already been sold, with the first set of properties set to open. With 500 villas and 12 apartment towers, along with a community club house, shopping centre, hotel, schools and even a nine-hole golf course, Living Legends is creating a stylish, self-contained community in the heart of Dubailand. It's an opportunity that promises dividends – both in return on investment and lifestyle. *For more details contact 00 971 4556 0888; www.thelegends.ae*



Feelgood factor

Named the world's most liveable city by *The Economist*, Melbourne is prized for its infrastructure and a quality of life. With spectacular views of both sea and skyline, this penthouse combines sophisticated design with a remarkable amount of space. It's set over three levels, with a large, landscaped rooftop garden and two floors featuring spacious bedrooms, formal and informal dining spaces and a magnificent executive wing – complete with a wine cellar. It's the city's most desirable residence – and that's no small achievement. *For details, contact Ross Savas at Kay & Burton (00 61 418 322 994; rsavas@kayburton.com.au). www.thepenthousemelbourne.com*

CREDIT WHERE IT'S DUE

Over the last decade, the process of negotiating credit has changed considerably. High-net-worth investors know the value of experienced advisors, who have the specialist knowledge to enable clients to conduct transactions smoothly. 'Our experience, relationships and points of influence are truly the difference,' says Harry Lewis of W Coleman & Co. As a specialist used to arranging loan facilities at the highest level, he's well placed to assist real-estate investors in the UK and beyond. You can contact him on 020 7581 8121 or email hol@w-coleman.com

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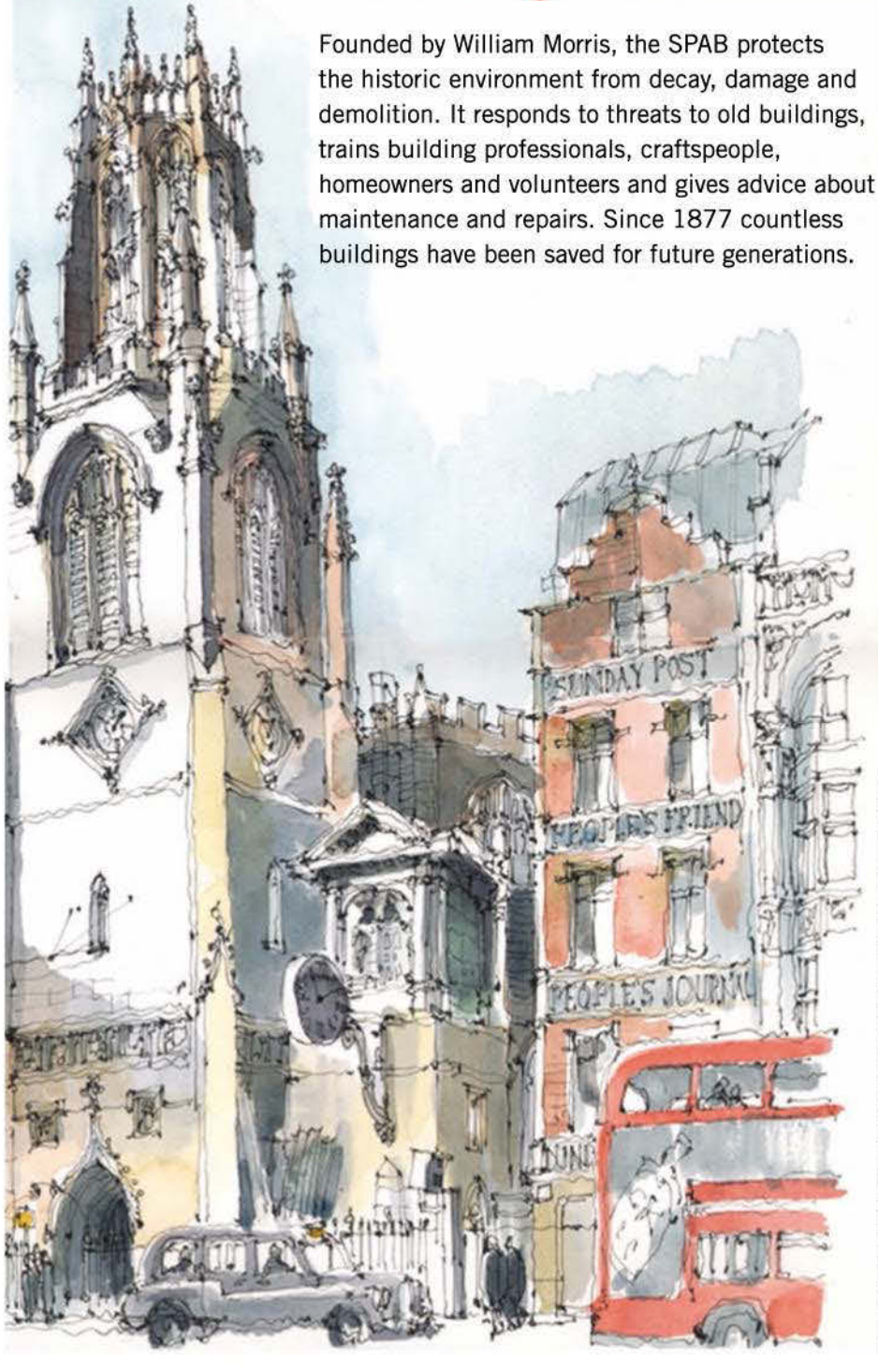

Drawing of St Dunstan-in-the-West by SPAB Scholar Ptolomy Dean

Founded by William Morris, the SPAB protects the historic environment from decay, damage and demolition. It responds to threats to old buildings, trains building professionals, craftspeople, homeowners and volunteers and gives advice about maintenance and repairs. Since 1877 countless buildings have been saved for future generations.

Information about maintaining your home is available through events, courses, lectures, publications and telephone advice.

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What's it like to be...
TOBY, ANN WIDDECOMBE'S GOAT

I know I have the body of a weak and feeble goat, but I have the heart and stomach of a bull. I have a pair of horns, don't I? And I'm absolutely prepared to use them. But truly I'm a dancer, not a fighter. The paso doble is my signature, because I have these naughty, goaty hips... eh? Eh? Eh? Know what I mean? Maisie, my pen mate, doesn't. She's uptight. For a goat. Not goaty at all. Not even when I turned up the heat with my American Smooth. Not even when I hit her with my tango. I mean, that's not normal.

And so I turn my mind to higher pursuits. To politics. And, more specifically, to the yellow glory of the mighty Liberal Democrats. Whom I love. Because Ann says they act the goat. So that's who I goat for. Nick Clegg's my favourite human. I would like to dance for him. To dance for him under the stars. To dance for him, and only him. Especially since he's now Prime Minister. My Ann won't actually tell me the actual results of last May's election. No doubt she doesn't want me goating that I was right all along.

Every night, before my goat meal, I say a prayer. To the holy goat. 'Oh Mighty Goat,' I say, 'please let me dance for Bruno, Len, Darcey and that other one. I long to give them my cha-cha-cha.' It would make my Ann so proud. ***MD***

While Toby limbered up, Ann spilled his beans. For more information on the Buttercups Sanctuary for Goats, go to buttercups.org.uk

Photographed by ANYA CAMPBELL

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